



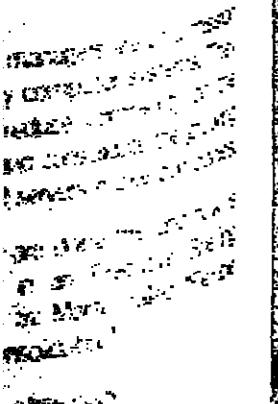
OfficeStation™ 97  
Multimedia PC  
166+  
• 160+ MHz  
• Upgradable  
• 128Mb RAM  
• 2.1Gb HD  
• 32Mb  
• 32Mb  
• 16.8 Mb  
• 16.8 Mb  
• 64-bit Graphics  
• MPEG  
• Stereo 16-bit sound  
• 256x1600  
• Microsoft Office 97  
• Windows 95  
• FREE Leisure Educational  
• FREE Laser Printer Offer  
• All Standard Features

£1392  
£1185  
Upgrade to  
MMX  
Technology  
FREE  
Buy Now...Pay Later  
Interest Free Credit

11



of our clients  
it's simple



# THE TIMES

No. 65,908

THURSDAY JUNE 5 1997

35

3



BATTLE FOR  
THE ASHES  
Test match  
preview  
SPORT  
PAGE 52



CRASH:  
THE  
VERDICT  
Geoff Brown's  
view  
PAGE 37



Crème  
de la Crème  
THOMAS  
MORRIS  
SECRETARY  
HOW TO  
MANAGE  
YOUR BOSS

Rivals scorn new alliance

## Dorrell quits Tory race to back Clarke

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE's campaign for the Conservative leadership gained momentum yesterday when Stephen Dorrell pulled out of the race and threw his backing behind the former Chancellor.

Mr Dorrell described Mr Clarke as "the biggest Hitler of this political generation" and the "outstanding figure at the centre of contemporary British politics", and said that they were joining forces to win the battle of ideas against Labour.

Mr Clarke pursued a similar theme in a speech last night urging the Tories to review their health, education and welfare reforms to renew their appeal to the "lost voters of middle England".

Although the arrival of Mr Dorrell was a psychological boost to the Clarke effort, it did not automatically mean a sudden increase in the number of votes pledged to him. Mr Dorrell was trailing the other five candidates in the race, attracting only a handful of public backers and few other private supporters.

The camps of the other candidates professed to be untroubled by Mr Dorrell's switch, which they considered inevitable. They claimed that Mr Clarke was merely picking up a week early votes he would in any case have secured after the first ballot.

William Hague paraded 22 of his declared supporters at a Westminster photo-call, including three prize new additions: David Heathcoat-Amory, the former Treasury Minister, Sir Nicholas Lyell,



"I suppose they're trying to slow down Kenneth Clarke's bandwagon"

candidate of the Right in the final run-off.

Mr Clarke and Mr Dorrell announced their alliance at a joint news conference at Church House, Westminster, having had several conversations in recent days that led Mr Dorrell to tell a member of Mr Clarke's team on Tuesday that he was ready to withdraw.

They have not done any deal on which job Mr Dorrell would get in a Clarke-led party, but Mr Clarke said that he would have a "very leading role".

Mr Clarke said: "I welcome Stephen's endorsement and the extra support he will bring to my campaign. He has a formidable reputation both as an effective minister and campaigner and as an original policy thinker."

Mr Dorrell said: "Ken Clarke is the outstanding figure at the centre of contemporary British politics. He is, in fact, the unity candidate. He is the big Hitler of this generation. He should be the next Conservative leader and the next Prime Minister of the United Kingdom."

"As this leadership election has gone on, I have been increasingly impressed by the extent to which Ken Clarke and I have been arguing the same case." The former Chancellor had one of the most original minds in politics, and

Continued on page 2, col 4

Peter Riddell, page 11  
Leading article, page 23  
Letters, page 23

## Blair seeks full honours review

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR plans a fundamental shake-up of the honours system to give it more independence from the office of Prime Minister.

It has already been revealed that he intends to curb the convention of giving honours to MPs. Now, it is understood, he is also "uncomfortable" with the idea of distinguishing between composers, businessmen and artists who may be eminent in their fields.

Although the Prime Minister will work with the current arrangements for the present, Whitehall expects a full review of the system. One option would be an honours commission that would compile a list of names which the Prime Minister would send directly to the Queen without intervention by himself or his staff.

A Downing Street source confirmed yesterday that the honours system was one that Mr Blair hoped to tackle in his

first term. However, with other priorities, he had not yet decided on a way forward.

Senior officials said they would welcome a review. They believe the system has become outdated, that some titles are anachronistic and that awards made under various orders of chivalry are confusing.

One senior source said: "We have looked at all this and there are considerable anomalies. Some people think 'dame' is outdated, for example. The problem is, when you start to tinker with something like this, you risk bringing down the whole pack of cards – but the system does need change."

Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, the former Cabinet Secretary, said he thought Mr Blair should set up a Royal Commission to review the whole system. "It would be perfectly possible for a separate committee or commission to oversee

Continued on page 2, col 2

London, on Tuesday. A hospital spokesman said yesterday that mother and children were doing well.

However, he refused to confirm reports that the mother is Eleanor Armstrong Perlman, wife of Dr Morris Perlman, a reader in economics at the London School of Economics. "The mother wishes to maintain her privacy," he said.

Professor Craft, a director of the London Gynaecology and Fertility

Centre, has long defended the right of women over 50 to have IVF treatment.

Last night he refused to confirm whether he had treated the woman, saying his clinic dealt with about five cases a year of mothers aged between 50 and 55.

"Making families is a very happy business and egg donation makes magic happen for people who are deeply unhappy and stressed," he said. "Women do conceive naturally up to

the age of 55 so why not let that happen in a clinic too? It is only logical."

Fewer than 100 women are believed to have given birth over the age of 50. The oldest was a 63-year-old Californian in November 1996. A 59-year-old British woman who had twins in 1993 received her treatment in Italy.

The previous oldest Briton to successfully undergo treatment in this country was Pauline Lyon, who gave birth just before her 52nd birthday.

## Britain's oldest test-tube mother has twins at 54

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A WOMAN aged 54 has become Britain's oldest test-tube mother by giving birth to twins after being implanted with eggs from a younger donor.

The mother is said to have received in-vitro treatment from Professor Ian Craft, the reproduction specialist, at a Harley Street clinic before having the twins at University College Hospital.

London, on Tuesday. A hospital spokesman said yesterday that mother and children were doing well.

However, he refused to confirm reports that the mother is Eleanor Armstrong Perlman, wife of Dr Morris Perlman, a reader in economics at the London School of Economics. "The mother wishes to maintain her privacy," he said.

Professor Craft, a director of the London Gynaecology and Fertility

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

TV & RADIO ..... 50, 51  
WEATHER ..... 26  
CROSSWORD ..... 26, 52

LETTERS ..... 23  
OBITUARIES ..... 25  
WILLIAM REES-MOGG ..... 22

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

ARTS ..... 37-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24

SPORT ..... 44-50, 52  
FORD CAR TOKEN ..... 16  
LAW REPORT ..... 36



Guardian and Granada TV mounted sustained attack on former minister, court told

# Aitken's standing 'ruined by lies about arms sales'

By MIKE HORNELL

THE former Tory Cabinet minister Jonathan Aitken's reputation was "butchered" by baseless allegations involving the supply of prostitutes to Arab businessmen and illegal arms sales to Iran, the High Court was told yesterday.

Mr Aitken, who resigned as Chief Secretary to the Treasury in 1995 in order to fight the allegations, is suing *The Guardian* and Granada TV, which claimed that his business career and fortune depended upon his connection with the Saudi Arabian Royal Family.

In the course of a 20-year relationship with one member of that family, Prince Mohammed, Mr Aitken was alleged to have become a "financial parasite". Mr Justice Popplewell, who is trying the libel case in the absence of a jury, was told that the allegations included claims that he had "whored" for the Saudis and concealed from his constituents that he had placed himself in Arab pockets for his personal gain.

Mr Aitken, 54, who lost his seat, Thanet South, in the general election, sat listening with his wife, Lolicia, as Charles Gray, QC, outlined his claim for damages, including aggravated damages. His action, expected to last eight

weeks, was launched after *The Guardian* and Granada simultaneously published articles and broadcast a *World in Action* programme in April 1995, and again the following December, examining links between Mr Aitken and the Syrian arms dealer Wafic Said.

In one version of events, it was said that Baroness Thatcher's son had taken a £300 million share. But while both sides in the case emphasised that there was no evidence to support Mr Al Fayed's claim, Mr Gray added that a memo "shows the vigour and enthusiasm with which Granada pursued that here, as indeed did *The Guardian*".

For good measure, Mr Gray said, it had been alleged that at the clandestine meeting at the Ritz, Mr Aitken had not had to pay his hotel bill.

Mr Gray added: "Perhaps the gravest charge, really a double-barrelled charge, is that Mr Aitken grossly misconducted himself as a minister in flagrant defiance of the rules governing ministerial conduct. Whilst holding the office of Minister of Defence Procurement, he conducted private business dealings with an arms company, Future Management Services (FMS)."

The allegations include a claim that, at the height of the Iran-Iraq war, Mr Aitken helped a company called Astra Holdings sell arms to the two countries despite knowing that it was prohibited. The two organisations accused him as non-executive director of the arms company BMARC of having known about the sale of naval cannon to Iran.

Mr Aitken denies another claim that 15 years ago he had asked Robin Kirk and Jo Lambert, employees of the Inglewood Health Hydro in Berkshire, to procure prostitutes for Arab clients. It was alleged that he had called in police on the bogus pretext that the two employees had committed fraud in order to



Jonathan Aitken and his wife, Lolicia, leaving court yesterday. He resigned as a minister to fight the case

destroy their reputation, refuse their reputation, remain relevant to the question of aggravated damages, Mr Gray said. Despite all the evidence on Mr Aitken's behalf, which would involve the calling of a "dauntingly large number" of witnesses, *The Guardian* and Granada were "obstinate persisting with their attack".

The financial relationship between Mr Aitken and Prince Mohammed had begun in 1979 when the former MP became part-time managing director of Al Bilad UK, but it

ended when the prince took up public office in 1984, and during those dates Mr Aitken drew a salary of only £9,000 per year plus bonuses worth about one third of that sum.

It was wholly untrue that his assets derived from his association with the Saudi royals, and he had actually acquired his wealth after inheriting one third of his father Sir William Aitken's estate, and half the estate of an aunt.

In 1982 he became a director and shareholder in TV-AM, a company in which the prince

and others invested more than £3 million, but that represented only 16 per cent of its share capital.

Prince Mohammed had contributed nothing towards the cost of Mr Aitken's 18th century home in Lord North Street, London, which cost only half the £500,000 which *The Guardian* and Granada had reported.

Mr Aitken will start his evidence from the witness box today. The defendants deny libel and will plead justification in their defence.

## IRA man shows jury how to fake a bomb

By STEWART TENDER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A SELF-confessed IRA volunteer showed an Old Bailey jury yesterday how to make a fake time bomb, using icing sugar to make explosives. Officers think they faced Semtex high explosive.

Gerard Hanratty, 38, said 37 fake bombs would have been placed by his IRA team at six electricity sub-stations linking London to the National Grid. The "brilliant" plan would have left the authorities with no choice but to turn off power.

London would have been without electricity for at least a day and the IRA would have scored its biggest coup without any deaths or injuries.

Hanratty and seven other men have denied plotting to blow up the substations last year. In court he has admitted he was part of the IRA team and claimed other defendants were also in the IRA. Asked yesterday why he denied plotting to cause explosions, he said he "was not guilty of that charge".

As the jury and Mr Justice Scott-Baker watched, Hanratty demonstrated how to build a fake bomb using three bags of icing sugar. He said the IRA had told him that the icing sugar would look exactly like Semtex under an X-ray.

He packed the sugar into a wooden box holding a time and power unit. A piece of metal piping was slipped into the sugar to simulate a detonator and connected to wires.

Asked by Kenneth Macdonald, QC, for the defence, whether the hoax would have worked, Hanratty said: "The bomb disposal people are highly professional people and they don't mess around. To them this was a bomb."

He said 37 boxes with time and power units found by police in south London were never intended to hold explosive or detonators. "Their purpose was to force the British establishment to turn off their own electricity."

Any bomb disposal officer called to deal with such a device in the vicinity of 100,000 volts would have to turn the electricity off before the result would be no electricity in London for however long it took to deal with the device. It would take a minimum of hours. We felt they would be dealt with in a day and a half."

Hanratty added: "If we had succeeded in cutting off the electrical power to London it would have been all over the world." He said he would not have been prepared to take the risk of planting a real bomb inside an electrical installation. IRA volunteers were not expendable, he said.

The trial continues.

## Employee accuses 'caring' bank of humiliation over lavatory visits

By MARK HENDERSON

AN AMERICAN bank whose employment contracts required staff to show "total respect" for each other humiliated a woman employee by making her report every time she went to the lavatory, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Yvette Davis, a compensation expert at Chase Manhattan's British headquarters in Bournemouth, said that she was victimised by her managers after taking seven weeks' sick leave for work-related stress last year. She resigned when set embarrassing work objectives, which included having to inform her supervisor whenever she left her desk, even to go to the lavatory or to use the photocopier.

"I felt totally humiliated by it," she told the Southampton industrial tribunal. "If a supervisor wasn't there, I had to let one of my colleagues know." Miss Davis, a former professional cabaret singer from

Christchurch, Dorset, claims constructive dismissal and sexual harassment by a male supervisor.

The bank's mission statement, known as the Chase Vision, was written into contracts. It said: "This means total dedication to integrity and total respect for each other. We regard our colleagues as we do respected clients; we treat our colleagues with courtesy, candour and sensitivity."

She told the tribunal that the bank's noble words belied a cold approach.

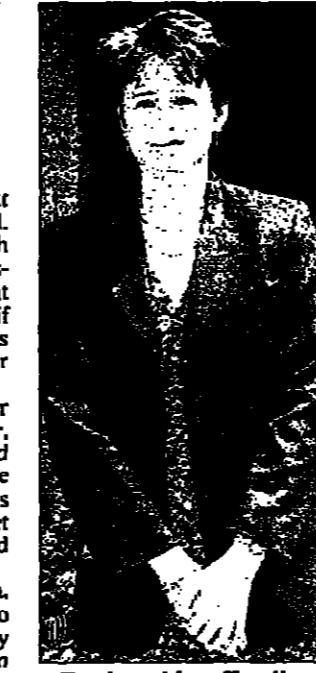
"Someone is going to end up committing suicide one day because of that company," she said. "I want the little people to know how the big people treat them — I think it is appalling. I have been on the edge of a breakdown because of Chase Manhattan."

Andrew Burns, for Chase Manhattan,

said Miss Davis had overreacted to

friendly questions from Mr McCartney

and had not been treated differently from other employees. The hearing was adjourned until August.



Davis said staff policy could lead to suicide

## Kray was buried 'without his brain'

By STEWART TENDER

RONNIE KRAY, one of the notorious gangster twins, was buried without his brain, his elder brother Charlie told a jury yesterday.

Mr Kray, 70, was close to tears as he said the brain was secretly removed by a Home Office pathologist before the funeral two years ago. The family went ahead with the funeral and had to have a second one some months later after the brain was returned in a casket.

The story of Ronnie Kray's missing brain emerged yesterday as his brother, from Sandhurst, South London, gave evidence at Woolwich Crown Court where he denies charges involving cocaine worth

£39 million. Two other men have already pleaded guilty to drug charges.

Asked if there had been a problem after Ronnie, who was in Broadmoor, died, Mr Kray said that a few months later the family discovered his brain had been removed for an experiment. He said his other brother Reggie found out first. "Everyone was ringing up about it and was very upset about it and wondering why."

Mr Kray said complaints were made to the Home Office, which did not admit to the removal of the brain: "We thought we were burying the full body at the time."

The trial continues.

# Before we can take down the fence, we have to dig up the road.

Stonehenge is the most important, and most visited, monument in Britain.

For 5,000 years, it has stood as a timeless memorial to the people who built it.

And yet, today, it stands in what is little more than a traffic island.

Two main roads converge on the monument, severing it from the awesome landscape it once dominated.

The busy A303 trunk road passes within 200 yards of the Stones. The A344 virtually touches the Heel Stone.

Five years ago, the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons described the presentation of the site as "a national disgrace".

At English Heritage, we couldn't agree more.

Which is why we, in partnership with the National Trust and the Tussauds Group, have submitted a proposal to the Millennium Commission to help us fund the Stonehenge Millennium Park.

Our vision is a 6,000-acre prehistoric natural

wilderness containing over 450 ancient monuments, as well as Stonehenge itself.

To achieve this, we would close the A344 and return it to grassland.

The A303 would be sent through an underground tunnel where it passes the site.

We would remove the existing (and woefully inadequate) visitors centre and car park and build a new Visitor Complex at least a kilometre away from the Stones.

By making Stonehenge harder to get to, we would make it more accessible.

Visitors would be able to roam freely (and free of charge) among the monuments, unfettered by fences.

(Those with disabilities or walking

difficulties would be provided with suitable transport.)

The greatest archaeological landscape in the world would be returned to its original and rightful setting.

It is a grand plan, and inevitably, an expensive one.

But with the help of the Millennium Commission, our vision can be achieved.

After four years of consultation with government officials, archaeologists, environmentalists, landowners, planners and local residents, the time for action is now.

For Stonehenge, it's just another millennium.

For millions of visitors, it will be an opportunity that cannot be missed.



ENGLISH HERITAGE

**Saturday in THE TIMES**  
**PLUGGING THE GAP**



**How to make the most of the year off between school and college**

**Weekend**  
Travel Special

It is like someone finding something valuable on *The Antiques Roadshow*, says judge

## Woman accused of deception turns tables on Sotheby's

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

AN INTERIOR designer spoke of her relief yesterday after being cleared of trying to cheat Sotheby's over a pair of antique tables. Denise Butler had wept as Recorder John Roberts, QC, told her she was like someone on *The Antiques Roadshow* who had suddenly discovered she owned something valuable.

Miss Butler had been accused of trying to deceive the auction house after offering for auction a pair of 1785 George III rosewood tables as unrestored originals when she had divided them in two after buying one table at an auction.

The judge said she was entitled to restore them and "pump up the volume" of the price. "Where is the deception in that?" he asked.

Miss Butler bought the ornately decorated round table for £7,500 at an auction in March 1995 but then found it was made up of two semi-circular Georgian side tables. Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court was told.

She spent £4,500 on "beautifully restoring them" and then offered them for sale through Sotheby's, which placed them in a sale catalogue for an estimated £40,000 to £50,000, the judge said. Sotheby's had

not spotted the restoration but called in the police when the auctioneer who had originally sold the table to Miss Butler saw it in the catalogue.

The judge said Miss Butler was like someone who had bought a dirty painting from a market stall, cleaned it up and found it was a Constable. "Those of you who watch *The Antiques Roadshow* see how shocked a person is when an expert says that something you thought was worth £5 turns out that they are sitting on something worth £50,000. This lady found herself in the position that something she bought for £7,500 with four legs was actually two tables with eight legs."

Regarding Miss Butler's claim to Sotheby's that the tables were a family heirloom, he said it was a matter of misrepresentation rather than deception.

The judge ordered the jury to acquit Miss Butler on three counts of deception after Simon Denison, for the prosecution, said he did not feel he could proceed.

Miss Butler, who trained as an interior designer, said: "I am innocent and have been from the outset. I am so pleased that at long last justice

has actually been done." She said she had not decided what to do with the tables.

A spokesman for Sotheby's said the decision to prosecute Miss Butler had been made by the Crown Prosecution Service, not the auction house. "When serious questions of authenticity are raised over objects to be offered in any Sotheby's sale, it is our policy to withdraw them from sale until such questions have been resolved satisfactorily."

Miss Butler said the tables had been her first big project after she became interested in antiques when she became ill with multiple sclerosis in 1988. She read books on the subject and had occasionally bought antiques to restore them.

"I borrowed money from my parents after spotting the potential of the table. It was my first big project," she said. "I'm still angry at what I've been put through. Although my name has been cleared I feel I should never have been charged, let alone put through the ordeal of court. I have been through such a terrible time over the past 18 months. I can't believe it's all over."

Henry Neville, chairman of the British Antique Dealers Association, which represents



Denise Butler yesterday: "I'm angry at what I've been put through. I feel I should never have been charged"

the country's 400 leading antiques dealers, said the court case was highly unusual because one would normally expect auction-house experts to spot any restoration. "I wouldn't expect a private person to declare restoration be-

fore selling a piece because the auction house should have the expertise to judge it before selling it on — that is the expertise that an auction house markets itself on. The same goes for dealers."

He said the main issue was

the difference between restoration and reproduction. "Any piece over 200 years old is bound to have been conserved in some way or else it wouldn't be here today," he said.

"It's a question of degree. As long as you are not passing off

something modern as an antique or passing something off as something else I don't think it can be classed as deception, but I would hope to be able to read the degree of restoration involved in the sales catalogue."

## Abbey hymns and Blair lunch for golden Royals

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will mark their fiftieth wedding anniversary in November with a thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey and lunch with Tony Blair and his Government.

The lunch will draw its 350 guests from a wide spectrum of national life far beyond Westminster. The idea was inherited from John Major, but Downing Street stressed last night that the Government was as keen to mark the Queen's anniversary as the previous administration.

Despite her wish that the golden wedding should be regarded as a private landmark rather than a state occasion, and should not be a burden on the taxpayer, details announced by Buckingham Palace yesterday indicate that there will be no shortage of events to make the occasion memorable.

After the Abbey service, attended by government and opposition leaders, the Queen and the Duke will undertake a walkabout before lunch at the Banqueting House, Whitehall. In the evening, they will host a private dance at Windsor Castle.

Celebrations will begin on July 5, when they will attend the Royal Pageant of the Horse, an equestrian extravaganza in Windsor Great Park which has been masterminded by Colonel Mike Parker, producer of the Royal Tournaments.

## Guide book turns up its nose at smelly Britons

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT  
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

VISITORS to Britain are being warned that the country is alarmingly expensive, has some of the grimeiest and ugliest buildings, poor plumbing and dismal cities filled by unwashed, hobby-obsessed people, who speak in impenetrable accents and "don't understand that a good shower is one of life's basic essentials". The guide says that, because Britain is inhabited by unwashed, hobby-obsessed people, who speak in impenetrable accents and "don't understand that a good shower is one of life's basic essentials".

A new edition of the *Lonely Planet* guide book to Britain says that the countryside may be beautiful, but the nation is inhabited by unwashed, hobby-obsessed people, who speak in impenetrable accents and "don't understand that a good shower is one of life's basic essentials". The guide says that, because Britain is inhabited by unwashed, hobby-obsessed people, who speak in impenetrable accents and "don't understand that a good shower is one of life's basic essentials".

A team of researchers, led by *Lonely Planet* founder Tony Wheeler, spent two years updating their earlier guide, whose criticisms caused a furore when it was published two years ago. But it proved so popular among young backpackers, especially from

## Frog lover who gave it all up bags new species

BY PAUL WILKINSON

AN AMATEUR naturalist who gave up his building society job, possessions and savings to go frog-hunting in Africa has discovered four new species.

Martin Pickersgill, 41, who already has one frog named after him, even left behind Christine Watson, his long-term girlfriend, when he set off on a ten-month trek from Cape Town to northern Africa.

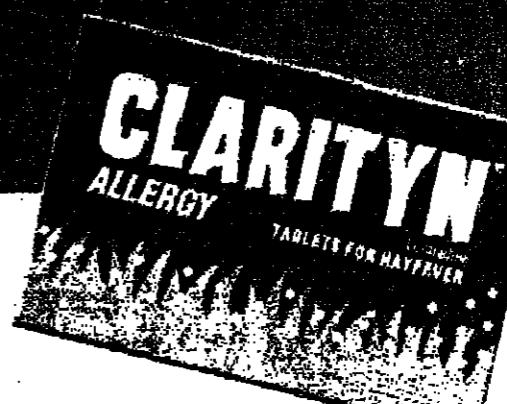
Ms Watson, 40, remained at home at their house in Hunslet, Leeds, processing the scores of photos he sends back of his observations. Before setting out last autumn he said: "It was a choice between Christine and the frog and I chose the frog. My friends think I'm nuts." He reckons that the expedition will have cost him more than £20,000 by the time he returns in August.

On his 10,000-mile route through Swaziland, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia to Tanzania, Mr Pickersgill has had malaria and other infections, been attacked by hippos and eaten strange fare, including the roast tail of a monitor lizard that had just been hit by a vehicle. But he did manage to record four new species of African reed frog.

Mr Pickersgill has been keen on frogs since he was 13. In 1983 he made a similar trip to Natal and discovered the species now named after him: the Pickersgill Reed Frog, or *Hyperolius pickersgilli*.



*Gets hayfever SUFFERING?*



Clarityn Allergy can relieve all your hayfever symptoms. One small, easy to swallow tablet starts to work in minutes and delivers a full 24 hours' relief without making you drowsy. Clarityn Allergy is available from your pharmacist without a prescription.

**Clarityn Allergy gets you back to normal — fast**

Always read the label. Clarityn Allergy contains loratadine. For further information on hayfever and its treatment, please write to: Schering-Plough Consumer Health, Division of Schering-Plough Ltd, Wehlyn Garden City AL7 1TW

 CONSUMER HEALTH

Seventies feminist who called for men to do housework targets family values for Harman

SIMON WALKER

## Wine bar women's champion moves into government

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT, AND GLEN OWEN

A WOMAN who fought to allow women to drink at the bar of El Vino's, the Fleet Street wine bar, and called on fathers to do their share of the housework, is to be Harriet Harman's specialist adviser on women's issues.

Anna Coote, 50, said yesterday: "I am still a feminist, yes, but my views have changed. We all have. The Labour Party has moved on." Ms Coote came to national prominence aged 20 supporting a move for the Pill to be given to any student on request.

As the editor of *Student*, the Edinburgh University newspaper, she also forced the resignation of Malcolm Muggeridge, then rector, after an article she wrote claiming he was not doing his job of representing students' views to the university authorities. Mr Muggeridge had angered students after describing their cravings for "the old slob's escapes of dope and bed".

Ms Coote, who has an 11-year-old daughter and lives with an academic, was rather coy yesterday about her campaigning past on women's issues. "I probably don't agree with everything I said and wrote in the 1970s. My views have been tempered by experience.



Pauline Barrett: new policy head

But I am very proud of some of the things I did. I have been probably much more low profile in recent years."

When reminded that she had once called on men to do half the housework, she said: "That was a very courageous thing to say in the 1970s, but people would laugh about it too."

During that period she married Laurie Taylor, the sociologist, but they have since divorced. Ms Coote was also an early champion of battered wives and, with her friend

Tess Gill, a solicitor, was one of the first to call for rape victims to keep their anonymity in court.

In a legal guide for the National Council of Civil Liberties in 1972, Ms Coote also highlighted the anomaly that women could not sue for loss of sex if their husbands were injured by somebody's negligence, but that a man so deprived could sue. In those pioneering days former colleagues recall that she was "very left wing, very Old Labour". One said: "I remember her once looking askance at the fact I was wearing a raincoat with a fur lining. Her expression said everything."

She was deputy editor at the *New Statesman* before moving to television documentary work, including a three-year stint from 1982-85 as editor of *Diverse Reports*, the Channel 4 current affairs series.

In her new role she will divide her time between the new two-day post for Ms Harman and her job as deputy director of the Institute of Public Policy Research, the left-wing think tank. After



Anna Coote says her views have been tempered by experience since the radical early days. "But I am very proud of what I did."

campaigning on the fringes, Ms Coote says she is delighted to be part of the new Government. "There is a vital task just re-engaging women in politics, and for them to look to the Government and speak up on their behalf."

The need for childcare, particularly for school-age children, and where parents can have guaranteed care after school and during the holi-

days is a priority issue. "We must develop family-friendly policies that make a difference for parents. A lot of it is to do with attitude and of course any improvement in women's lives is inextricably linked with improvement in men's lives."

Hewitt, now a Labour MP. "Our theme was that children had to be dependent and be brought up to be dependable parents. We make the argument about the importance of women not being powerless, poor and dependent."

But Ms Coote said yesterday she had also recently completed some interesting analysis on the different influences on boys and girls, and

how each child needs to develop a sense of values.

She has also worked on the creation of Citizens' Juries and looked at a new policy agenda for health. Ms Coote will develop new policy with Pauline Barrett, 50, who is married with two children, the civil servant selected by Ms Harman, to head the new women's unit. The two women already know each other well.

## Dixons DEAL 97

SAVE UP TO £100  
ON PSION SERIES 3C

BRITAIN'S  
No1 FOR PSION



PRICE -  
WE CAN'T  
BE BEATEN

One visit, and you'll find out why.

- ✓ **EVERYTHING YOU NEED**  
You'll find a complete range of organisers, accessories and software.
- ✓ **ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST**  
We'll help you find the organiser that's right for you.
- ✓ **LATEST TECHNOLOGY**  
If it's new, we've got it. Come in and see it now.
- ✓ **QUALITY GUARANTEED**  
All products are backed by Mastercare, Britain's biggest service and repair network.

PSION SIENA



ORGANISER

- Built-in agenda.
- Database.
- Calculator and World Time.
- Infra-red data transfer.

CHOOSE FROM 2 MODELS

SIENA 512K £169.99

SIENA 1MB £229.99

ACCESSORIES & SOFTWARE

PSION

GAMES DELUXE  
A collection of 5 exciting and challenging games for your Psion Series 3a or 3c.

Dixons Deal 97

£39.99

PSION

SCRABBLE  
Play the classic game on your Psion Series 3a or 3c.

Dixons Deal 97

£49.99

PSION

MONEY  
Take control of your finances. (FOR 3a OR 3c)

Dixons Deal 97

£49.99

PSION

AUTOROUTE EXPRESS  
The ultimate journey planner in your pocket. (FOR 3a OR 3c)

Dixons Deal 97

£69.99

PSION SERIES 3C  
2MB BACKLIT PALMTOP PC  
Word Processor, database, spreadsheet and World Time. File manager and jitter facility. Linkable to your office PC printer and fax via optional extras. Was £449.99.

**£379.98**  
Dixons  
Deal 97

SAVE  
£100

Dixons  
Deal 97

£299.99

£329.99

£70

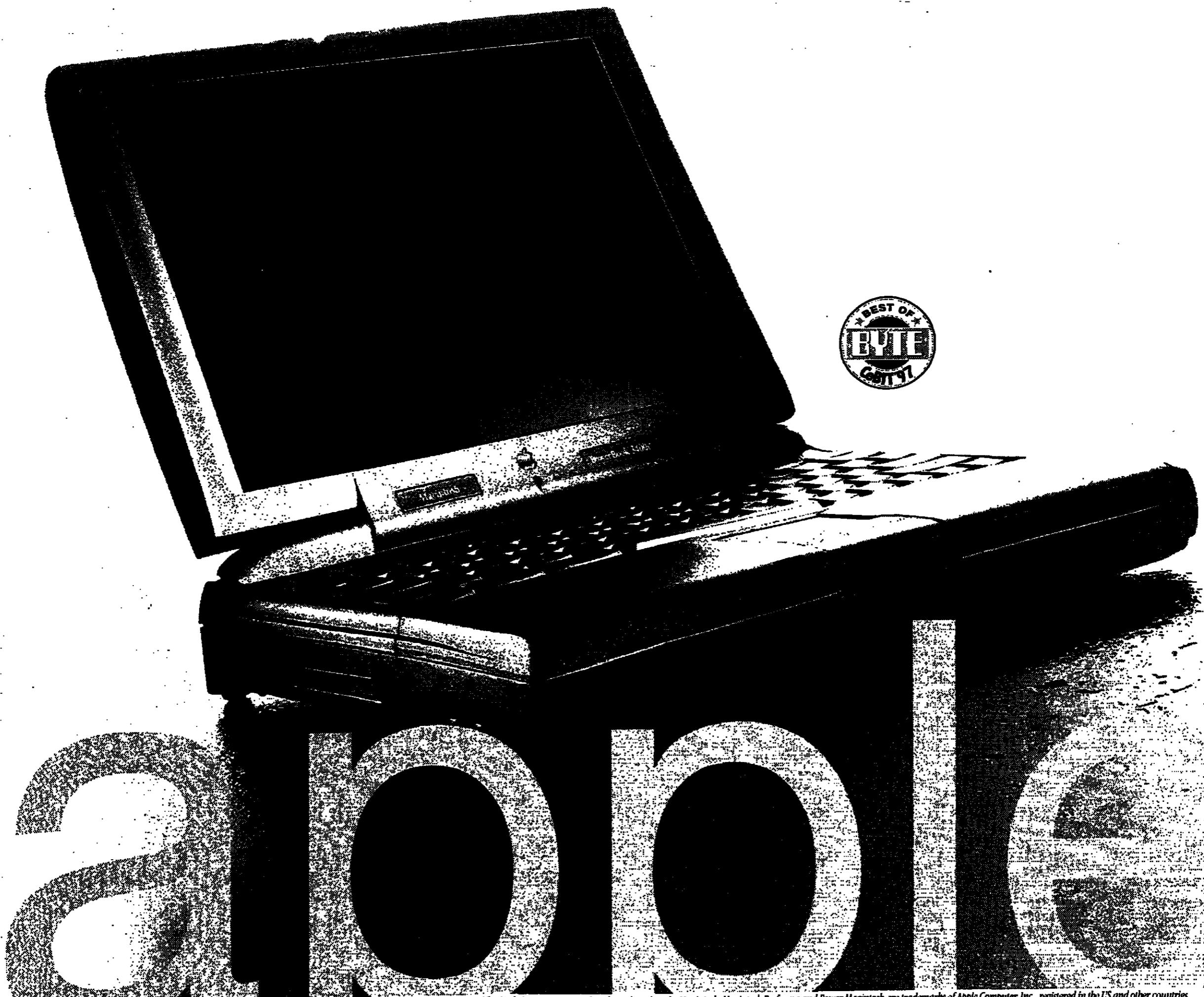
Dixons  
Deal 97

# Only Apple brings you the fastest notebook in the world.

## Introducing the 240MHz Macintosh PowerBook 3400.

The new Macintosh PowerBook™ 3400 is not only the latest mobile offering from Apple...it's also frighteningly powerful. Thanks to its PowerPC™ processor, that runs at 240MHz, it's as impressive when tasked with multimedia, as it is when handling sophisticated spreadsheets. But it isn't just quick, it's also got everything you could ever need built-in. Infrared networking technology saves you messing around with cables and attachments, when you need to be connected. It has an expansion bay into which you can place a floppy disk drive, a 12-speed CD-ROM drive (both delivered as standard) or a Zip™ drive. Add to that, four stereo speakers, a 3GB hard disk and memory that's expandable up to 144MB – and you have a machine that puts most desktop systems to shame. Whatever you've ever wanted to do, the Macintosh PowerBook 3400 lets you do it – wherever you are. To find out more, call the Apple

Information Centre, free on: 0800 174574 or visit our Web site at: <http://www.euro.apple.com/uk> 



The Macintosh PowerBook range also includes the PowerBook 1400 series. © May 1997, Apple Computer, Inc. The Apple logo is a registered trademark and Apple, Macintosh, Macintosh Performa and Power Macintosh are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc., registered in the US and other countries

# Know the form for June 10th?

If you're a Norwich Union member, you should have received this form, together with a mini-prospectus containing details of the Norwich Union Members' Offer. Here's what the form means, and how to fill it in. If you are in any doubt as to what you should do, please consult your bank manager, solicitor, accountant or other financial adviser.

**1.** This shows the number of free shares allocated to you on flotation. The number is determined by the size of the policies you held with Norwich Union on the relevant date, and is not alterable.

**2.** You can choose to hold your shares in the Norwich Union Share Account, or you can receive a share certificate. Whichever you choose, you will be able to sell your shares whenever you want to. If you intend to hold your shares in any PEP other than the Norwich Union Single Company PEP, you should choose to receive a share certificate.

**3.** Fill this in if you wish to have dividends paid directly into your bank account. If you do not, you will be sent dividends by cheque.

**4.** As a member, you are entitled to apply for shares over and above those allotted to you free, at the Members' Offer Price which will be 25p per share less than the eventual Public Offer Price. If you do wish to apply for extra shares, the minimum amount you can invest is £400, and you may only invest amounts as follows: £400; £600; £800; £1,000; £1,500; £2,000; £2,500; £3,000; £4,000; £5,000; £10,000; £15,000; £20,000. Applications to invest any amount above £20,000 must be in multiples of £10,000, up to a maximum of £100,000. If you do not wish to apply for extra shares, leave this section blank.

**5.** If you are applying for extra shares, you must attach your cheque to the form, for the exact amount you have inserted in Box 4. The cheque should be made payable to "Lloyds Bank Plc A/C NU Share Offer" and crossed "A/C Payee".

## Members' Application Form



Before completing this form, please read the accompanying guide and mini-prospectus carefully

IF YOU WISH TO APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL SHARES IN THE MEMBERS' OFFER complete Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 and sign and date the form in Section 6.

IF YOU ONLY WISH TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE SHARES complete Sections 2 and 3 only and sign and date the form in Section 6.

You may only use this form if you are the person named above. Please do not alter the name or address unless it is incorrectly spelt or contains an error.

### 1 Free share allocation

### 2 Choices for holding your shares - tick ONE box only

I wish to: EITHER hold my shares in the Norwich Union Share Account

OR receive a share certificate

### 3 Dividend mandate

I wish to have dividends paid directly into the following bank account:

Bank  
Sort Code

Account  
Number

### Sections 4 and 5 - To be completed only by members applying for additional shares

### 4 Application for additional shares at the Members' Offer Price

I apply to invest (insert one of amounts indicated in the guide):

£

5  If you are applying for additional shares, attach your cheque here with a pin. It should be for the amount inserted in Section 4, made payable to "Lloyds Bank Plc - A/C NU Share Offer" and crossed "A/C Payee". Attach one cheque.

### 6 Declaration

I confirm my consent to being a member of The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society.

I agree to be a shareholder of Norwich Union plc if its shares are issued to me.

If I am applying to invest in additional shares, I make this application on the terms and conditions of application set out in the mini-prospectus dated 21 May 1997 as they apply to applications in the Members' Offer and declare that to my knowledge and belief this is the only application in the Members' Offer being made for my benefit (or that of any person for whose benefit I am applying).

If my shares are held in the Norwich Union Share Account, I agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Norwich Union Share Account set out in the mini-prospectus dated 21 May 1997.

Signature

Date

1997

7 Return this form using the enclosed reply envelope to arrive NO LATER THAN 2.00 PM ON TUESDAY 10 JUNE 1997

If you are enclosing the Norwich Union Single Company PEP Form with this form, please tick (✓) this box:

PEP

### 6. Sign and date the Declaration.

7. Return your form in the reply-paid envelope to arrive no later than 2.00 pm on Tuesday 10th June, 1997. If you have lost your reply envelope you can send your application to The Norwich Union Share Offer, P.O. Box 1000, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL.

## Don't miss the June 10th deadline.



10/10/97



## Odd couple will make even odder bedfellows

THE cynics say it will be a marriage of convenience but on their third date in this election Ireland's odd couple were at pains to stress that there was a meeting of minds.

Bertie Ahern and Mary Harney, the leaders of the two main opposition parties, have been thrown together by events, and during the course of this campaign the strains have shown. Yesterday, however, they invited the world to admire the fruits of their union: a shadow budget designed to spread the benefits of Ireland's phenomenal growth by cutting taxes.

A few balloons held shakily aloft by sweatshirted supporters turned Bewley's coffee house in Dublin from tourist trap into media centre. More carefully-packaged hot air from Mr Ahern and Ms Harney turned their two very different parties into a principled crusade. Mr Ahern's Fianna Fail are the party of the old Republic — populist, national and corporatist. Ms Harney's Progressive Democrats are the party of new Ireland — yuppie, metropolitan and liberal. They have, however, coalesced on a

The strains have been showing in Bertie and Mary's marriage of convenience, writes Michael Gove. Yesterday, they invited the world to admire the fruits of their union

broadly Conservative platform emphasising tax cuts, zero tolerance for crime and a "family friendly" social policy. The polls, which have not moved significantly, suggest they are favourites to form the next government. About 15 per cent of voters have still to make up their minds and almost as many could vote for fringe or independent candidates but the odds still favour a Fianna Fail/Progressive Democrats' tax-cutting proposals to secure victory than that would reverse the trend in the European Union which has seen socialist victories in the United Kingdom and France put the Left into government in 13 of the 15 member states.

Although the incumbents, a rainbow coalition of the liberal Fine Gael party, Labour and post-Marxist Democratic Left have presided over Europe's fastest growing economy, they have found, like the Tories, that the voters are apparently unwilling to show gratitude for a boom they feel they built themselves.

Certainly, Dublin's lunchtime drinkers were in the mood to loosen their belts a

notch in yesterday's sun and the feeling that the time has come to spread the state's largesse permeates political conversations. One Progressive Democrat supporter sipping his drink in the shadow of Trinity College, Dublin, commented: "Top rate tax at 48 pence is just too high. This country is doing well enough to afford a cut." If the Fianna Fail/Progressive Democrats' tax-cutting proposals do secure victory then that would reverse the trend in the European Union which has seen socialist victories in the United Kingdom and France put the Left into government in 13 of the 15 member states.

The political consensus in Ireland is still well to left of the United Kingdom. Industries privatised long ago in the United Kingdom still nestle in the Irish state embrace. When the Progressive Democrats floated the possibility of job cuts in the public sector, their kite was shot down by their Fianna Fail allies for fear of upsetting the delicate balance of patronage on which the older party relies.

The tensions between the two parties revealed then have also surfaced on welfare reform and the peace process, with Fianna Fail forced to tone down Progressive Democrat positions. Before the election

was called, the Progressive Democrats' eight-strong parliamentary contingent were accused of wielding disproportionate influence over Fianna Fail; but, as the campaign has developed, the PD tail, far from wagging the dog, has often been sat on.

Earlier this week Dick

Spring revealed that he had been warned by Mary Harney before he went into alliance with Fianna Fail in 1992 that he would have "a very sorry time". He did, stumbling out of coalition with them on a point of honour to create an alternative government. If Ms Harney finds herself in government with Fianna Fail after tomorrow she should enjoy the honour of being Ireland's first female Tanaiste (Deputy Prime Minister). She may also find out how uncomfortable it is being in bed with a much bigger partner.



Harney and Ahern, favourites to form the next government, at the launch of their shadow Budget yesterday

## Sleaze factor fails to stop fightback by ex-minister

BY AUDREY MAGEE

MICHAEL LOWRY, the former Irish Minister for Transport, refuses to be drawn on the parallels being drawn between his fight for re-election and the fall of the Tory MP Neil Hamilton.

The comparisons, however, are unavoidable. Mr Lowry has been at the centre of Ireland's own sleaze furore and his rival candidate is — like Martin Bell — a former television journalist.

The crucial difference is that Mr Lowry is expected to hang on to his seat in North Tipperary, where he commands huge public support. He is standing for election as an independent after Fine Gael removed him from the party ticket over claims that he failed to pay tax on more than £300,000 given to him by the supermarket tycoon Ben Dunne.

Mr Dunne, whose alleged payments to politicians, including Charles Haughey, the former Prime Minister, are the subject of a tribunal, is claimed to have paid more than £200,000 for an extension to Mr Lowry's home and deposited £105,000 into an offshore account for the former minister.

The trials of the minister worsened when Irish newspapers carried details of an extra-marital affair, a subject not treated lightly in Irish society. But, despite it all, Mr Lowry is still on course to win a seat in tomorrow's election to the three-seat constituency of Tipperary North and may even top the poll. If he does, he could yield great influence in the formation of the next government.

The government coalition of Fine Gael, Labour, and the Democratic Left is fighting a close battle with the opposition coalition of Fianna Fail and the Progressive Democrats. Independents like Lowry could be vital in securing an overall majority.

Mr Lowry is a former senior member and fundraiser for Fine Gael and was a close personal friend of John Bruton, the Prime Minister. The decision to oust Mr Lowry from the party has caused a rift in Fine Gael support in Tipperary North.

About half the local party supporters back Mr Lowry, leaving the national party to take over and organise an alternative candidate. Tom Berkery was selected but despite best efforts by him and his party — including the allocation of £2.5 million to projects in Tipperary North in the past three weeks — he appears likely to lose. It will be

the first time in 20 years that Fine Gael has been without a seat in the constituency.

The predicted outcome on the streets of Thurles, Mr Lowry's home town, is that the "three Michaels" will be elected: Mr Lowry and Michael O'Kennedy, of Fianna Fail, and the sitting TD or MP, Michael Smith. However, the journalist Kathleen O'Meara is charging up on the outside flank and may save the day for the government parties.

The Irish version of Martin Bell, Miss O'Meara appears on course to win through vote transfers and may take the third seat instead of Mr Smith. Ms O'Meara, 37, a former broadcasting journalist with RTE, who moved back to her home town of Roscrea in time for the election, said: "It has been going very well in the past few days



Lowry: ousted by Fine Gael as party candidate

and I think I'm in there with a chance of a seat. I'm not wearing a white suit though. It's impossible to keep clean in this work."

Richard Bruton, brother of the Taoiseach and Minister for Enterprise and Employment, was in Tipperary North yesterday to give support to the coalition candidates. Mr Berkery and Ms O'Meara. He said that despite the risks to Fine Gael, the decision to evict Mr Lowry was the right choice. "The public would not have accepted anything else," he said. "People are expecting high standards in public office and from a party like Fine Gael."

Mr Lowry, who spent the day in private meetings with constituents yesterday, has huge backing in Thurles despite his questionable tax and marital affairs. He has worked furiously for his region. In the 1980s he devised a scheme to clear the £1.3 million debt held by the Gaelic Athletic Association and has organised an annual rock concert in the town.

you need help.

for cheaper motor insurance with money-back guarantees ring

0800 11 22 33

help

And with BT's Business Choices discounts you could save an additional 27% on all your national calls for a quarterly site fee of only £5 excl. VAT. Call BT for your business savings check-up on **Freefone 0800 800 800**.

5 minute national daytime call	Before May 29th	After May 29th	With Business Choices Level 1
44p	40p	29p	

The cost of calling keeps on falling. **BT**

17 MAY 1997 CHARGE PER CALL DIRECT DIALED WEEKDAY CALLS. UNQUOTE. DIFFERENT RATES APPLY TO BT FREEPHONE AND KHMBCARD CALLS.

17 MAY 1997

## Tories make hard work of an already difficult job

The other day I remarked to one of the Tory leadership candidates that next Tuesday's first round was essentially a beauty contest, to establish MPs' first preferences, before the serious business began. This, he joked, must mean that the second round was an ugly contest, so he should win. The candidate had a point. The Tory's election rules are perverse in the extreme.

The rules have mainly been used to get rid of unpopular leaders, as in 1975, 1990 and, unsuccessfully, in 1995. The only previous occasion when the sitting leader has not been in the first round was 1965 when Sir Alec Douglas-Home stood down. In 1965, there were just three candidates, only two of whom, Sir Edward Heath and Reginald Maudling, had a serious chance. At present, there

are at least three possible winners, Kenneth Clarke, William Hague and Peter Lilley, out of five first round candidates.

Mr Clarke, of course, starts with the advantage of being the most prominent and most popular candidate, both with the public and among Tory supporters. Yesterday's sensible decision by Stephen Dorrell to stand down will matter more in terms of headlines than in directly affecting the votes of MPs. It is a myth that candidates command blocks of voters that can be ordered this way or that. MPs' support candidates for varying reasons of personal loyalty and past service as well as ideology. It is highly unlikely that all, or even most, of Mr Dorrell's perhaps half-dozen supporters will now back Mr Clarke. But it does reinforce his position as

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

the sole candidate of the Centre-Left. By contrast, the position on the Centre-Right is messy and the rules do not make it easy to sort out. After all, anyone standing in the first round can also stand in the second round, when other candidates can join in (though they probably will not on this occasion). This determines which two candidates will fight the run-off. But there is no formal process of elimination, or rating of candidates in order with the votes of the lower ones being redistributed. It is likely that the candidate coming fifth next Tuesday, probably John Redwood, will drop out, but there is no reason why the one in fourth place should do so —

especially as the second, third and fourth-place candidates could easily come within a handful of votes of each other. If the second or third-place candidates do less well than expected, the fourth place one — say, Michael Howard — may calculate, or at any rate claim, that he will pick up votes on the second round and could even move up into second place then.

The common assumption is that the second round battle will be about which centre-right candidate is best placed to stop Mr Clarke. That is based on the belief that he will gain enough votes in the first round — say 45 to 50 — to establish momentum as the clear favourite, and the man to stop. But if he fails to gain that level of support, the contest could turn into a battle of stopping the candidate from the Right.

PETER RIDDELL

## Major accuses Blair of breaking promise over devolution Bill

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN MAJOR forced Tony Blair onto the defensive yesterday over the Government's plans for devolution.

In a combative performance at Prime Ministers' Questions, Mr Major accused Mr Blair of renegeing on a promise to publish the Scottish devolution Bill before a referendum on the changes is held. Intervening an unprecedented five times in the second of the new-style Question Times, Mr Major was cheered by Tory MPs as he accused Mr Blair of arrogance and contempt for Parliament.

He claimed that Mr Blair had promised last month that the devolution Bill would be published before the referendum this autumn.

However, the Government is promising to publish only a White Paper — a formal policy document — on devolution before the referendum. The Tories believe that voters should be asked to consider the actual Bill, rather than a policy document that can be changed later.

Mr Major quoted a response Mr Blair gave to a question during the Queen's Speech debate last month. Asked by Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, when the Bill would be published, Mr Blair told MPs: "Of course, the Bill will be

published in time for the referendum."

Last night government sources said that Mr Blair had made a slip of the tongue and had meant to say that the White Paper would be published before the referendum.

But in rowdy exchanges in the Commons, Mr Major asked Mr Blair if he had changed his mind. "And if you have changed your mind, why didn't you have the courtesy to come and tell the House? The distinction between the White Paper and the Bill will be well understood by the House and you. 'Wasn't it a matter of trust that you told us?'

Mr Blair said that the position was clear. "The White Paper proposals ... will be put to a referendum of the Scottish people. That is entirely sensible since it is only after the referendum has given an affirmative answer that it is sensible to draw up the Bill, so we have the details of the Bill so well understood by the House. That is plainly the sensible way to proceed."

He added: "We said right through the election that the White Paper proposals will be there so that everybody in Scotland and Wales knows precisely what is being contemplated."

Mr Major accused Mr Blair of "both wriggling and wob-

bling". He said: "Isn't the truth that the details of this policy are still in such a muddle that you cannot yet give detailed instructions to the draftsmen?"

"Why don't you admit that you made a mistake in the past and the Bill isn't ready? Why don't you admit you've been caught with your fingers in the till, oratorically. You promised the Bill and you can't deliver the Bill."

The Referendums (Scotland and Wales) Bill was expected to complete its final Commons stages last night before heading to the Lords.

□ Scots will vote in favour of devolution by a ratio of three to one, according to a System Three poll published in *The Herald* yesterday. It is the first opinion poll to use the same two questions that the Government proposes to ask in September: "I am not in favour of a Scottish Parliament. I am not in favour of tax raising powers."

Sixty-four per cent voted for home rule with 21 per cent against and 15 per cent undecided. But there was less support for a parliament with tax-raising powers: 53 per cent for, 28 per cent against and 19 per cent undecided.

More than 1,000 voters in 40 Scottish constituencies were canvassed.

Mr Major denied that his wife, Cherie, was described as

President style: Cherie and Tony Blair on their way to the state opening of Parliament

## Labour accused over 'First Lady'

A TORY MP provoked up-

setar in the Commons yesterday when he attacked government ministers for describing Tony Blair's wife as Britain's First Lady (James Landale writes).

To Labour cries of "shame", David Wilshire, MP for Spelthorne, urged the Prime Minister to tell his ministers to stop what he called "this arrogant practice".

Mr Blair denied that his wife, Cherie, was described as

the First Lady and insisted that politicians' wives should be kept out of politics.

Mr Wilshire asked: "When President Clinton and a real First Lady had dinner with you last Thursday rather than at Buckingham Palace, did you take that opportunity to explain why Members of Her Majesty's Government have been referring to the wife of the British Prime Minister as Britain's First Lady?"

The unarticulated implica-

**Don't laugh. We'll all be driving one soon.**

It may look funny to you, but in Japan

they're laughing on the other side of the

street. Over there, the Daihatsu Move has

outsold every other small car. It's weird on

the outside, clever on the inside and

incredibly popular all over.

**Weird.** The Move's unique Tall Body

design. **Clever.** Loads of headroom. Loads

of legroom. 5 doors. And 4 seats which

recline to make — wait for it — a double bed.

**Weird.** Narrower than a mini, but only

inches longer. **Clever.** It's a doddle to park

and manoeuvre.

**Weird.** 5 tall door openings and high

seating positions. **Clever.** Easy to enter. Easy

to exit. With driver's airbag as standard.

**Weird but probably cleverest of all.**

All this and a three year unlimited mileage

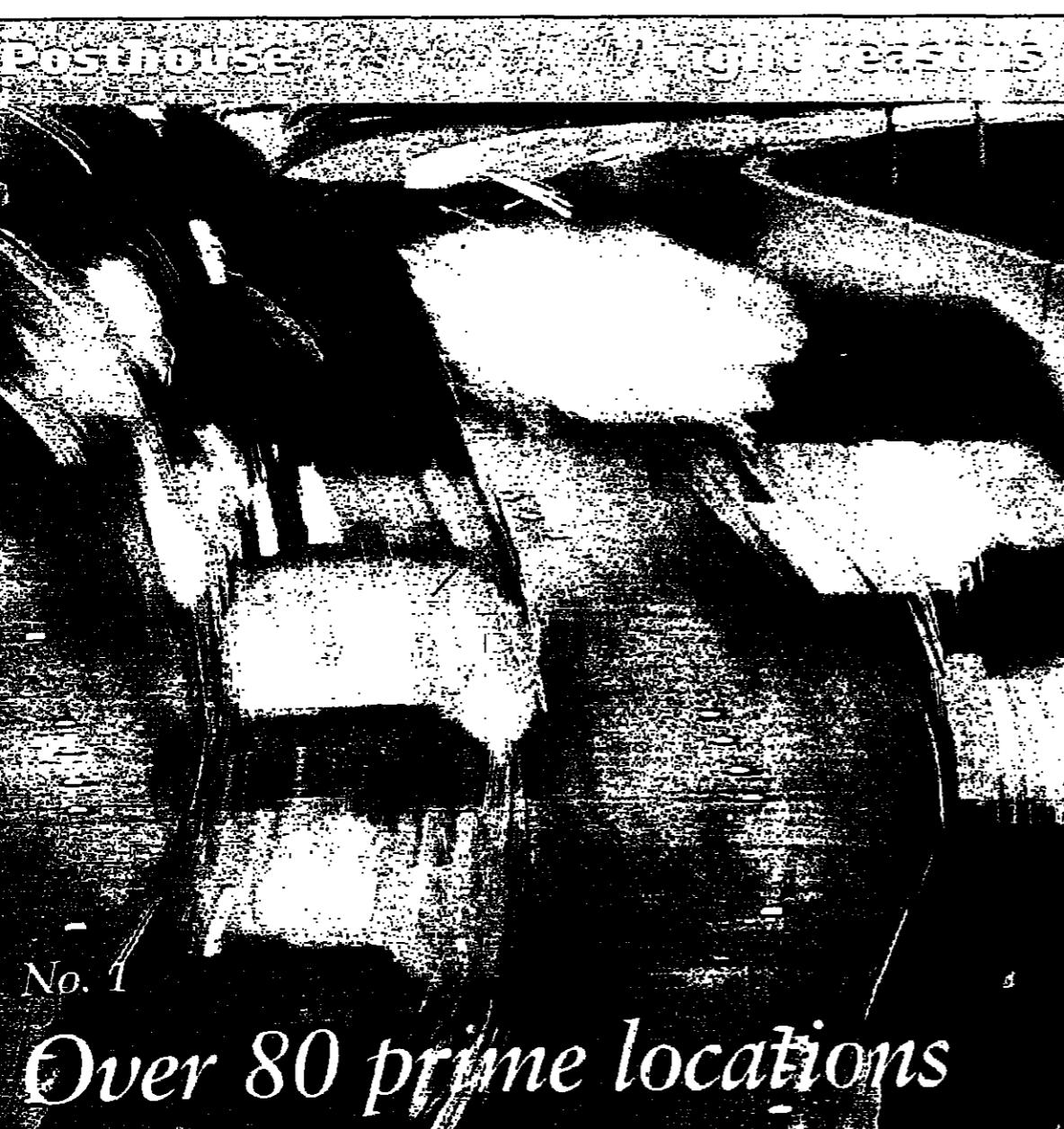
warranty from just £7200 on the road.

For more information contact your local

Daihatsu dealer or phone 0800 618 618.

**THE MOVE**  
CLEVER CARS FROM JAPAN

Price correct at time of going to press and includes number plates, delivery and 12 months road fund licence. Car featured Move + £8200 on the road.



No. 1  
Over 80 prime locations

You'll find Posthouse hotels conveniently situated around the UK and Ireland, including city centres, London and all major airports. Just one of the many reasons to choose a Posthouse hotel. Here are a few more:

- Leisure and Health Clubs available at over 40 locations nationwide.
- Your partner stays for FREE when you book our business room rate.
- FREE weekend accommodation with our rewards scheme.
- Upgrade to "Executive Class".



Posthouse  
Hotels

FORTE  
Posthouse

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: Trade and Industry questions; Education (Schools) Bill, report of the Select Committee on the Oxford Hospital, Thirsk.

In the Lords: Wireless Telegraphy Bill, second reading; Special Immigration Appeals Commission Bill, second reading; debate on planning inquiry rules.

eed help  
22 33



## Editor faces charge of inciting anglers to kill cormorants

BY MICHAEL HORNBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER editor of the *Angling Times*, Britain's best-selling fishing newspaper, is to appear in court on two charges of incitement to kill cormorants.

It is thought to be the first time that anyone has been prosecuted for inciting an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981. If guilty, he faces a maximum fine of £8,000.

The charges arise out of an article on December 4 last year in the weekly newspaper, which has a circulation of 85,000 among Britain's three million anglers. The article reported the activities of an unnamed fisherman who had taken the law into his own hands. Beside a front-page headline, "These Birds Must Be Killed", the paper carried a photograph of a masked man with a gun next to four dead birds.

Keith Higginbottom, editor from July 1991 until May 8 this year, has been summoned before Peterborough magistrates on July 11. News of the prosecution broke as the paper celebrated a decision by Brussels to end the protection which cormorants enjoy under European Union law.

The Brussels decision will not affect the protected status of cormorants in Britain, but will intensify demands by the angling lobby for national law

to be changed. Fisheries' managers want to be able to shoot the birds on sight.

Cambridgeshire police said yesterday that Mr Higginbottom had been charged with "incitement to commit the intentional taking, killing, injuring of any wild bird", and "incitement to commit the use of prohibited articles and methods to kill birds".

The *Angling Times* said it was very surprised by the charges. "We have never urged the public to take the law into its own hands, but have campaigned to have the law changed so that appropriate measures can be taken."

It added: "The *Angling Times* took the view, and still supports the view, that cormorants are doing major ecological damage to European fish stocks and the aquatic environment in general and that something must be done to limit their numbers."

It said Mr Higginbottom's departure as editor was based purely on the offer of a better position.

The Brussels decision was taken under the Birds Directive. The British representative voted with the majority to end the protected status of the cormorant.

The decision affects only the main continental sub-species of the bird, *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*, which is different from the coastal cormorant found in Britain. *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*. The continental bird has increased from 5,000 pairs in 1979 to more than 100,000 today and is no longer considered endangered.

□ Cormorants have taken thousands of fish from Lord Lloyd-Webber's lake at Sydmonton Court, on the Hampshire-Berkshire border near Newbury. Just 250 carp remain out of 7,500. Fishermen in Berkshire say the cormorants are being driven inland because coastal waters are polluted and over-fished.

Leading article, page 23

## Jury told to forget football loyalties

By LIN JENKINS

POTENTIAL jurors in the retrial of three footballers and a businessman accused of match-fixing were told yesterday not to allow footballing loyalties to influence the result.

The four women and eight men who were selected at Winchester Crown Court to try the case were given strict instructions not to be influenced by the fame of John Fashanu, the former Aston Villa striker and now host of the TV show *Gladiators*, Bruce Grobbelaar, the former Liverpool and Wimbledon goalkeeper, and Hans Segers, the former Wimbledon keeper. The fourth defendant is Heng Suan Lim, a Malaysian businessman.

Mr Justice McCullough told the jurors that they must not come into contact with the defendants or their families and for that purpose would leave court by a separate entrance at different times.

He also said that the jury must not speculate on why a previous panel failed to reach a verdict and must have no contact with any members of the previous jury.

Fashanu, 33, Segers, 34, and Mr Lim, 30, deny conspiring to give and corruptly to accept money to influence or attempt to influence the outcome of football matches between February 1991 and November 1994. Grobbelaar, 39, Fashanu and Mr Lim deny an identical charge between November 1992 and November 1994. Grobbelaar also denies accepting £2,000 as an inducement for match-fixing.



Higginbottom: has since left the *Angling Times*



British Museum plans to scare up support

By DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE bandaged mummies which, according to horror films, creak open their sarcophagi at night and lurch down the corridors of the British Museum may have to watch where they step in future. The floor around their coffins could be covered with children who have taken up the museum's challenge to spend a night sleeping in the Egyptian galleries.

Then again, youngsters asleep under an Aztec skull in the Museum of Mankind could be given a shove by the ghost of a 19th-century clerk who wanders the corridors pushing people who get in his way. If they can get to sleep over the noise of ghostly footsteps and the creak of the front door opening when everybody knows it's locked, they might be wakened by a young boy who asks for directions to a rectory that has not existed since the 1960s.

The haunting "Sleepovers" plan to have children bring their sleeping bags to the museum has been dreamt up to attract young people to join the British Museum Society. The cost of a night beside a mummy is £20 for children, £18 for adults, and the first one is being held in November.

Surprisingly, there are no ghosts associated with exhibits most seem to be former members of staff. "No mummies or ancient Roman soldiers," said one scholar. On the whole, the museum's ghosts tend not to be adventurous: they primarily haunt the basements and attics, although several members of staff have also seen an elderly gentleman and a woman who walk along an inner road, a non-public open area: it is thought that he is a former keeper with his wife or daughter. The spooky part of the story is that they are seen only from the calves upwards — from the level at which the road used to be before it was raised.

□ The Society can be contacted through Sarah Cuthbert, Head of British Museum Society, Great Russell St, London, WC1.

## Fall in pollution cases could be linked to drought

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A WATER company is prosecuted for polluting rivers and waterways once a fortnight, the Environment Agency said.

Last year, however, the number of pollution cases in England and Wales from agriculture, heavy industry and water firms fell for the first time since 1989, says its report, *Water Pollution Incidents in England and Wales 1996*.

The improvement is echoed in another report, also published today, showing an increase in the number of

beaches meeting the prestigious European Blue Flag standard. The Tidy Britain Group said that 38 beaches could now fly the blue flag compared with 18 last year.

The Environment Agency said that while the drop in riverway pollution incidents was welcome, the improvements may be due in part to the drought, with less pollution being washed into rivers and streams.

Many of the more serious incidents, in which large numbers of fish die, a river becomes unpleasant for boaters and walkers, and wildlife is harmed, involve discharge of untreated sewage or excessive levels of chemicals from

treatment works. The agency yesterday urged water companies to improve automatic monitoring systems at treatment works.

Last year, there were 32,409 pollution incidents reported to the agency, compared with 35,891 in 1995, a drop of 10 per cent. The agency said public-awareness campaigns, particularly on farms, had helped to reduce some types of incidents. However, pollution cases from lorries are on the increase, including spillages of oil, beer and diesel.

### BLUE FLAG BEACHES

Scotland: West Sands, St Andrews, Fife, England: Longsands, South, Tynemouth, Tyne and Wear, Sheringham, Norfolk; Cromer, Norfolk; Shoeburyness, East, Southend-on-Sea; Beach Street, Sheerness; Grove Avenue, Leysdown-on-Sea, Kent; Bognor Regis; West Wittering, West Sussex; West Beach, Hayling Island, Hampshire; Fisherman's Walk, Bournemouth; Durley, Bournemouth, Sandbanks, Poole; Central Beach, Swanage; Oldcombe Beach, Torquay; Meadowfoot Beach, Torquay; Redgate, Devon; Corbyn Head, Torre Abbey, Devon; Breamore, Shoalstone Beach, Devon; Wembury, Devon; Seaview Cove, Cornwall; Porthmeor, Cornwall; Portminster, St Ives, Wales: Port Eynon, Swansea; Penrhyn Country Park, Cefn Sidan, Carmarthenshire; Tenby North, Pembrokeshire; Whitesands, St David's, Pembrokeshire; Traeth y Gogled, Aberystwyth; Tywyn, Caernarfonshire; Barmouth, Caernarfonshire; Pwllheli, Caernarfonshire; Llanddwyn, Newborough, Anglesey; Northern Ireland: Benone Strand, Magilligan, Londonderry; West Bay Strand, Portrush, Londonderry; East Bay Strand, Portrush; Ballycastle, Co Antrim; Tyrella, Co Down; West Beach, Cranfield, Co Down.

LAURA ASHLEY

HOME EVENT

1/3 OFF  
Fabrics & Wallpapers

For your nearest Laura Ashley store call 0990 622116

\*Off original price and on selected items only. While stocks last, offer excludes woven fabrics.

Make your savings grow in leaps and bounds.

The new Reward Reserve account from NatWest gives you instant access to your savings at an attractive interest rate — up to 4.20% gross PA.

That's because we top up the basic rate with quarterly interest rewards, providing you've made no more than one withdrawal each quarter and kept a minimum balance of £2,000 in your account. Also, if you make no more than

three withdrawals in a year, we'll even add on extra annual interest reward.

You can open a Reward Reserve account with a minimum initial deposit of £2,000. To find out more, call us on the number below, or pop into any NatWest branch. So go on, jump to it.

Call 0800 200 400

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8.00am TO 8.00pm SATURDAY 9.00am TO 6.00pm

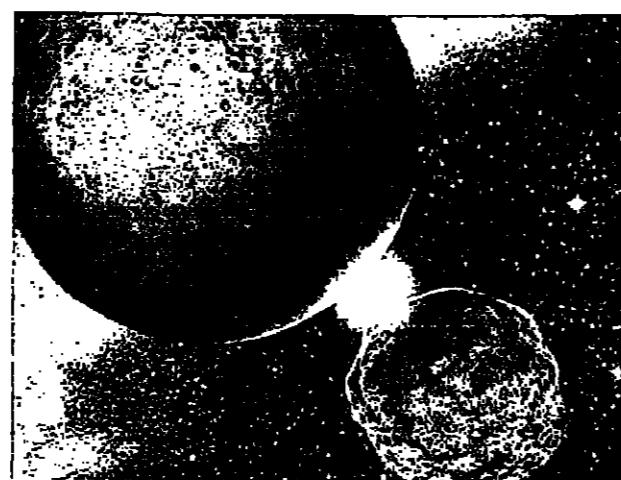
NatWest  
More than just a bank

\*The gross rate includes quarterly interest rewards of 1% gross per annum and an annual interest reward of 0.25% gross per annum. Where appropriate, interest rate for February 1997 will be deducted from the interest paid which may be retained by NatWest until repayment. Otherwise, for example, subject to the required minimum level, interest will be paid gross. The gross rate is the rate before deducting income tax. Credit interest and quarterly reward interest is paid quarterly and annual interest entered in full annually. All rates are subject to variation. We may terminate and record your phone calls with us in order to maintain and improve our service. National Westminster Bank Plc, Registered Office, 41 Leadenhall, London, EC3P 2BP. Registered Number: 221027 England. Ref No. 17101

An object one 25th the size of Earth may force astronomers to rethink history of our solar system

## Scientists find new planet beyond orbit of Neptune

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR



The object is the brightest discovered beyond Neptune since Pluto, seen with its moon, was found in 1930

ASTRONOMERS

have

discovered

a

mini-planet

at

the

edge

of

the

solar

system

which

may

change

our

thinking

on

the

planets

evolved.

More

than

300

miles

in

diameter

the

planetary

is

brightest

object

to

be

found

beyond

the

orbit

of

Neptune

since

Pluto

in

1930.

Given

the

designation

1996 TL66

the

new

object

is

probably

one

of

many

according

to

its

discoverers

Jane

Luu

of

the

Harvard-Smithsonian

Centre

for

Astrophysics

and

colleagues

They

say

it

is

the

first

example

of

a

new

class

of

objects

scattered

throughout

the

outer

solar

system

whose

total

mass

is

between

two

and

eight

times

greater

than

the

mass

of

the

Earth

and

is

one

25th

the

size

of

the

Earth

as

the

Earth

is

placing

it

between

Neptune

and

Pluto

or

one

25th

the

size

of

the

Earth

as

the

Earth

is

one

25th

the

size

of

the

Earth

as

the

Earth

is

one

25th

the

size

of

the

Earth

as

the

Earth

is

one

25th

the

size

of

the

Earth

as

the

Earth

is

one

25th

the

size

of

the

Earth

as

the

Earth

is

one

25th

the

size

of

the

Earth

as

the

Earth

is

one

25th

the

size

of

the

Earth

as

the

Earth

is

## THE WHITEHALL REVOLUTION

### The Ministry of Agriculture

Ministers have opened the floodgates. The Government is determined to fulfil its pledge to bring a fresh approach to Whitehall and the big departments of state

## Ploughing a new furrow

By MICHAEL HORNBY  
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

JACK CUNNINGHAM has promised to reform the Ministry of Agriculture from the secretive and out-of-touch department that he believes it has become.

"What I see here is a department which has not moved with the times, which has been for a variety of reasons rather embattled and inward-looking and not consumer or user friendly," he said. "I am determined to change all that."

It would not be the first time that a new Agriculture Minister has breezed in promising to put consumers first and to stir up the feather-bedded world of farming. Most retire hurt or else go native, a fate that could still overtake Dr Cunningham.

One of new Labour's most seasoned old hands, Dr Cunningham was not an obvious choice for the agriculture job. He had been expecting National Heritage, which he had shadowed for the past two years. But if he was dismayed to inherit the domain of the hapless Douglas Hogg, he does not show it.

He has thrown himself into his job with enthusiasm. Apart from taking time off to watch his favourite team, Newcastle United, beat Arsenal at Highbury on the day of his appointment, he has "not



Jack Cunningham promises to open ministry doors to consumers and farmers alike

stopped working". Between shuttling to and from Brussels to discuss fish and beef, he has abolished nine regional advisory panels, consisting mostly of farmers, which had existed in one form or another since the Second World War.

The decision was taken without consulting the National Farmers' Union, whose president, Sir David Naish, was too surprised to do more than bleat plaintively about the loss of this useful channel of communication". Dr Cunningham has told his three juniors, Jeff Rooker, Elliot Morley and Lord

Donoghue, to cultivate their own sources of information and opinion, assigning each to a different region.

Dr Cunningham plans to put a consumer representative on each of the myriad scientific committees that advise the ministry, and promises to publish promptly all the advice he gets. Officials have been set to work on a "mission statement" and on a new name for the ministry, to reflect the more open and less farmer-driven culture that Dr

Cunningham aims to promote. He has been MP since 1970, representing a mainly rural and farming constituency in Cumbria, and has little time for his party's anti-hunting zealots. "The Government has no policy on hunting," he said. "If a Bill were introduced, it would be a matter for a free vote."

The most ambitious project on his agenda is establishing an independent Food Standards Agency to take over much of the ministry's work in ensuring food safety. He says that the only reason it was not mentioned in the Queen's Speech is that the blueprint for the new body, a report by Professor Philip James of the Rowett Research Institute, was not received until the day Mr Blair entered No 10.

"We accept the broad thrust of the report and there will be a completely freestanding, independent agency with executive powers," he said. "Consultation will be completed later this month and there will be a White Paper and draft legislation by the autumn."

He agrees that reforming the Ministry of Agriculture, notorious for its inertia, will not be easy. "It is one of the reasons I have been sent here, to take these people on. If you like. Not that they are being difficult — no one is dragging their feet. I am not going to allow anyone to drag their feet."

### MINISTRY TEAM

#### JACK CUNNINGHAM, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Trim 57-year-old. Father a trade union boss in North East. Educated Jarrow Grammar School and Durham University (PhD in chemistry). Energy Minister (1976-79) under Callaghan. Since 1983 MP for Copeland, in Cumbria (Whitethorn 1970-83; Shadow Foreign Secretary (1992-94), Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary (1994-95) and Shadow Heritage Secretary (1995-97). Likes fell walking, gardening and fly-fishing. Taste for fast cars (priced £150 for doing 103mph in 1989).

#### JEFFREY ROOKER, Minister of State

Pugnacious, 56-year-old Brummie, MP since 1974 for Perry Barr, the mixed suburban-inner city constituency where he was born. Degrees in engineering and industrial relations from Aston and Warwick. Deputy Shadow Leader of the Commons (1994-97). No previous interest in farming. Cunningham's deputy with responsibility for food safety. Reputation as uncubbable puritan. Hobbies include fell walking and cooking.

#### ELLIOT MORLEY, Parliamentary Secretary

Large, affable, bearded, media-friendly Liverpudlian, aged 44. Father an ambulance driver. Trained as teacher and headed a department at Greatfield High School, Hull (1979-87). Since 1987 MP for Scunthorpe, mixed rural-industrial seat of Humberside. Responsible for fisheries and countryside, areas he shadowed in Opposition. Knowledgeable bird-watcher and leading anti-hunting crusader.

#### LORD DONOGHUE, Parliamentary Secretary

Sport-loving, cerebral 62-year-old. Grammar school boy with philosophy degree from Oxford. Lecturer at LSE (1963-74). Senior policy adviser to Wilson and Callaghan (1974-79). Times leader writer (1981-82). Life peer since 1985. Intellectual heavyweight with remit to think the unthinkable about future subsidies and the EU's common agricultural policy. Given new title of Minister for Farming and the Food Industry.

#### JOHN HOME ROBERTSON, Parliamentary Private Secretary

Wealthy, Roman Catholic, Border Scots socialist laird, aged 49. Owns 800-acre farm in Berwickshire. Educated at Ampleforth College and West of Scotland College of Agriculture. MP for East Lothian since 1983. Opposition agriculture spokesman 1984-87, 1988-90. Dropped as Scottish housing spokesman in 1988 for sympathising with non-payment of poll tax.

#### RICHARD PACKER, Permanent Secretary

Top civil servant at MAFF. Three other Agriculture Ministers have already come and gone during his tenure. Still has seven years to go before retirement at 60. Joined MAFF straight from Manchester University where he read science. Formidable operator with vast knowledge of highly technical subject. Unlikely to acquiesce quietly in emasculation of Ministry to which he has devoted his life. Lists "living intensely" as recreation in Who's Who.

#### TIM WALKER AND CATHY McGLYNN, special advisers

Tim Walker, 33: been with Dr Cunningham since 1995. Degree in science from Manchester University. Previously public relations manager at Royal Academy of Engineering. Cathy McGlynn, 29: adviser to Cunningham since 1993. Previously worked as researcher for late John Smith and in the European Parliament. Degree in government from Essex University.

## The In-Tray

Lying in wait in Dr Cunningham's in-tray were some of the most intractable problems inherited by the new Government, "little ticking time bombs", as he describes them. Ticking most loudly are fish and beef, two of the issues that have most poisoned relations between Britain and the rest of the European Union. Dr Cunningham believes that solutions are more likely to be found by avoiding the "bluff and bluster" of the previous Government.

### FISH:

Murmurings of discontent among fishermen threaten to turn into open street and port protests if no satisfactory deal is struck at the EU summit on quota-hopping later this month in Amsterdam.

This is the practice whereby some 160 foreign-owned boats, mainly Spanish and Dutch, have been able to catch fish allocated to the British fleet by buying up British fishing licences and registering in Britain. They take about a quarter of the national catch. Fishermen want the Rome Treaty amended to allow Britain to ban quota-hopping. The previous Government had promised to veto other decisions at Amsterdam unless this was

### BEEF:

achieved. Dr Cunningham dismisses such threats as "never-never land stuff". Instead the Government is hoping to get permission to limit the impact of quota-hoppers by requiring them to land a minimum proportion of their catch at British ports and to include a minimum percentage of British nationals in their crews.

This is unlikely to appease the fishing industry, which is also facing cuts of up to 30 per cent in catches of some fish as part of an EU programme to conserve stocks. The cuts, already agreed in principle by the Tory Government and accepted as necessary by Dr Cunningham, are due to start taking effect later this year.

### BEEF:

For all the talk of a fresh start in Britain's relations with the EU, an end to the beef ban is no nearer, and a new dispute is looming over exports of beef from other EU countries to Britain.

The ban has been in force since March of last year when the previous Government admitted the probability of a link between "mad cow" disease and a new strain of the human brain illness CJD.

Dr Cunningham refuses to commit himself to any target date for lifting the ban, holding out only the prospect of "step-by-step" progress, possibly starting with beef from Northern

Ireland, which is best able to guarantee BSE-free meat.

Farmers, suffering from the lowest cattle prices in more than 15 years, are agitating for controls on beef imported from EU countries, including Germany, which do not apply such BSE safeguards as removing spinal cord from carcasses.

EU countries are suspected of under-reporting cases of BSE in their own herds, and Dr Cunningham is expected soon to receive scientific advice that imports of beef should be halted if not subjected to the same controls as in Britain. He has said he would act on such advice if he got it.

## Does your current health insurance offer you all this?

Starter Plan from PPP healthcare, unlike many other low cost plans, gives you immediate access to hospital treatment when you're ill. Plus friendly 24-hour support even when you're fit and well. All this is yours for a remarkably low price, as soon as you join.

- Immediate access to private treatment
- Hospital stays paid with no annual limit
- FREE 24-hour Health Information Line
- FREE calls to your Personal Advisory Team

Join now and get  
YOUR FIRST MONTH FREE

**PPP healthcare**

SEND FOR A FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTATION NOW. TO: PPP healthcare, FREEPOST, PPP HOUSE, UPPERTON ROAD, EASTBOURNE, EAST SUSSEX BN21 1SR. Net site: [www.ppphealthcare.co.uk](http://www.ppphealthcare.co.uk)

Mr/Ms/Mr/Ms/Mr/Ms Name

Address

Tel. No. (Day)

Date of birth

Name of other adult to be included

Date of birth

Number of children under 21 to be included

If you have a current healthcare policy, please give your renewal date

Ref. 6436

I PREFER NOT TO RECEIVE PROMOTIONAL MAILINGS FROM OTHER COMPANIES

there to support you

Call now and get your first month free  
**0800 33 55 55** Ref: 6436

Ask for your no-obligation free quotation. Instant cover available. Credit cards welcome.  
(8am-8pm weekdays, 9am-5pm Saturdays) Calls may be recorded. PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE ABOVE.



FROM  
AROUND  
**£8**  
A MONTH



**£4.63**



**£5.00**



Surprisingly ordinary prices

GOV PRICE REFERS TO THE 1.6 5DR MODEL, UNLADEN WEIGHT 1075KG, ON THE ROAD PRICE £10,990. GROCERY PRICES REFER TO AN AVERAGE TARIFF FROM SEVERAL SUPERMARKETS ON 4/5/97 IN A GIVEN LOCALITY.

le Fam

0128





# Blair vows to push Kohl for go-ahead on Eurofighter

By ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE German Defence Minister yesterday tried to reassure Britain that his country remains committed to the £40 billion Eurofighter aircraft project.

However, after a meeting in Bonn with George Robertson, his British counterpart, Volker Rühe was only able to predict that the outlook for the Eurofighter project "looked better than 50-50".

Mr Robertson had underlined his concern for the four-year programme after renewed fears that Germany might pull out because of lack of funds. Herr Rühe said his Government hoped to resolve the matter at a Cabinet meeting on July 11, when next year's budget would be discussed.

Last night, Tony Blair promised to put pressure on Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, to sign up to the final phases of the Eurofighter programme when he sees him tomorrow. In the Commons, the Prime Minister said the Eurofighter project was important for British defence and jobs, and he would press the Chancellor to proceed with it. "We will be doing everything we can to see the project out," he promised.

Eurofighter is being developed by Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain. The four

countries are due to sign the production investment phase, which would allow the primary manufacturers in each of the nations to build the production lines. Britain's main Eurofighter factory would be at the British Aerospace plant at Warton, Lancashire.

The agreement was supposed to have been signed late last year but was delayed. However, the date keeps slipping because of Germany's budget difficulties. Bonn's defence budget has been cut and Herr Rühe is finding it difficult to raise the £1.25 billion needed for Germany's share of the next phase.

The defence budget for 1997 has been pared by DM2 billion (about £800 million). Herr Rühe argued that the size of this cut endangered the pre-production phase - building and preparing the factories for Eurofighter - as well as training and retaining the skilled workers. Half of the money has been found by delaying the modernisation of some weapons systems, such as the Leopard 2 tank. Although Herr Rühe was once a Eurofighter sceptic, he is now a convert.

Manfred Bischoff, chief of DASA, the main German aerospace contractor, said yesterday his company was sub-

siding the pre-production stage of the Eurofighter to the tune of £500,000 a day. He demanded a quick decision from Bonn, or he would consider withdrawing from the project.

British Aerospace has been lobbying the Labour Government to apply pressure on the Germans. In opposition, Labour fully supported the Eurofighter programme. The topic is likely to remain one of the most sensitive issues between Bonn and London.

To underline British industry's concerns about the fate of thousands of jobs which are linked to the Eurofighter project, leaders of engineering trade unions went to Germany to lobby Bonn. A total of 40,000 British jobs are at stake.

The Eurofighter 2000 is the biggest collaborative industrial project in Europe, the equivalent in cost of four Channel tunnels.



A Polish boy plays while a nun applauds the Pope's arrival at an outdoor Mass in Kalisz yesterday. In an apparently unscripted speech, the pontiff, who is on an 11-day visit to his homeland, paid tribute to millions of Jews who died in Nazi concentration camps in Poland, and reminded Polish Catholics of their shared heritage.



The Eurofighter: thousands of jobs are at stake

## Russian general offers to make treachery pay

FROM ROBIN LODGE  
IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN agents working for foreign powers have been offered a chance to come in from the cold while continuing to line their pockets.

General Nikolai Kovalev, head of the Federal Security Service, said in an interview on the Moscow television channel MTK that he had opened a hotline to enable Russians spying for foreign countries to turn double agents. By disclosing all to his security service, these agents

would not only be assured peace of mind, they would also be able to continue accepting payments from their foreign employers.

"We will find all of you in the end, sooner or later," the jocular general said. For those who reject the offer, the consequences could be dire. Russians caught selling secrets abroad face the death penalty, still in force despite demands for its abolition by the Council of Europe.

All calls to the hotline proved fruitless yesterday. It was constantly engaged.

## Do words fail your business?



If it does you're speaking the language of your customers and you could win one of the National Languages for Export Awards.

There's no better way to improve export opportunities than by doing business in your customer's own language.

The National Languages for Export campaign rewards those companies who communicate competently in the home language of their customers and you might well be one of them.

For an award application form ring 0800 556646 quoting reference T3. Or you can fax your details on 0171 215 4856 or write to the address below quoting reference T3.

The National Languages for Export Award  
(reward yourself for speaking up)

DTI, KINGSTON HOUSE, 66-74 VICTORIA STREET, LONDON SW1E 6SW

dti

## Annan hints at use of force to topple Sierra Leone coup

By MICHAEL BINION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

KOFI ANNAN, the United Nations Secretary-General, said yesterday that as a last resort force might have to be used to dislodge the Sierra Leone coup leaders, a view reluctantly shared by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, at their meeting in London.

After an hour's talks, in which Mr Annan briefed the Foreign Secretary on the decisions at the summit conference of the Organisation of African Unity, the UN head said it was important that the entire African continent had spoken with one voice against the military coup. "It shows the kind of change we are seeing in Africa these days and I think it needs to be applauded," he said. "I would maintain what I have said earlier, that if use of force becomes a last resort and it is inevitable it may have to come to that." But he added that there was no question of a UN force going into the country.

Mr Cook said Britain would rather see a resolution by negotiation, but ultimately force might have to be considered. Officials in Whitehall, however, insisted that there would be no lessening of pressure on Nigeria to return to democracy, even if Nigerian troops restored the legitimate Government in Sierra Leone. Mr Cook said the coup leaders "have no friends among their neighbours, no friends in the region and no friends within Europe".

He telephoned Peter Pienaar, the British High Commissioner who arrived yesterday in neighbouring Guinea to congratulate him on his evacuation of British citizens and his initiative in arranging a ceasefire so that civilians could leave. About 200 more refugees were arriving in Conakry yesterday. Britain has chartered a Boeing 747 to bring them home.

■ Harare: The OAU summit ended here yesterday with an assurance from Zimbabwe's President Mugabe, its new chairman, that Africa's future coup-makers would find life much more difficult than they have in the past (Jan Raath writes). "I can assure you future coups will be handled in a rough way," he said.

**AT OUR BARBECUE PRICES, YOU WON'T GET BURNT.**

**3 MILE PRICE PROMISE**

If you can purchase an equivalent product of the same quality on this advertisement for less locally, we will refund double the difference. No arguments.

These are just a selection of the 125 products you'll find on special offer in Budgens at any one time, throughout the year.

**Whiskas Cat Food\*\***  
4 Cans For The Price of 3!  
4 x 390g Pack  
£1.96 SAVE 52p £1.44

**99p NEW Winalot**  
Winalot Choice Cuts in Meaty Jelly\*\*  
Price Marked 99p Packs Only 3 x 400g Pack  
£1.41 SAVE 42p 99p

**Mr Kipling French Fancies**  
8 Pack  
£1.15 SAVE 20p 95p

**Budgens Burger Buns**  
6 Pack  
69p SAVE 10p 59p

**Holsten Pils Lager**  
Includes 13.5% Free Cans Packs  
4 x 440ml Cans Pack  
£4.59 SAVE £1.10 £3.49

**Chasselas Romand**  
White 75cl  
£3.99 SAVE £1.00 £2.99

**Gaymers Olde English Cider**  
3 Litres For The Price of 2 Litres!  
3 Litre £2.99

**Harvest Cellars Bucks Fizz 75cl**  
£1.39 SAVE £1.00 £1.39

**Budgens Fresh Large Eggs 6 Pack**  
99p SAVE 39p 59p

**Hellmans Mayonnaise**  
Original/Light/Mediterranean 400g  
£1.29 SAVE 20p £1.09

**Del Monte Orange Juice**  
3 x 1 Litre Pack  
£2.39 SAVE 54p £1.85

**Dalepak Cauliflower Cheese Grills 4 Pack**  
£1.65 SAVE 66p 99p

**Heinz Baked Beans**  
4 Tins For The Price of 3!  
4 x 420g Pack  
£1.32 SAVE 33p 99p

**Grillers Barbecue Pork Ribs**  
Per lb £2.26 SAVE 45p £1.81  
Per kg £4.99 SAVE £1.00 £3.99

**Pasta Reale Tagliatelle Blanche 250g**  
89p SAVE 30p 59p

**Robinsons Barley Water 1 Lemon/Orange 750ml**  
£1.19 SAVE 30p 89p

**Clear Mountain Cape Wine Red/White 75cl**  
£2.29 SAVE 54p £2.75

**Budgens Fresh Chicken Breast Fillets**  
Includes 25% Extra Free! 625g  
£5.39 SAVE 40p £4.99

**Pork Farms Pork Pie 312g**  
£1.85 SAVE 56p 99p

**Budgens Fresh Lamb Half/Whole Leg**  
Per lb £2.26 SAVE 68p £2.58  
Per kg £4.99 SAVE £1.50 £3.49

**Our SAUSAGES HAVE STRONG FAMILY LINKS.**

We've been buying our sausages from a family run farm in Essex for over 30 years. In that time (and in our opinion) they've produced some of the finest sausages we know of. That's why we've remained their loyal customers. When you taste them, we believe you'll think they're the finest too.

**BUDGENS**

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES FURTHER. NOT YOU.

OFFERS VALID 5.6.97 - 18.6.97. \*Equivalent products of the same quality must be on sale in a competitor within a 3 mile radius of Budgens and within 7 days of Budgens product purchase. Applies only to products where you see the 3 Mile Price Promise sign in store. Subject to availability. Receipt required. Refund limited to 3 of each product. 1 Pack offer subject to availability. \*\*Savings based on price when bought individually. These products were previously on sale at the higher price indicated in some, but not all of our stores. Offers not valid in Budgens Pewsey/Windlesham/Cowley/Sandown/Solent/Freshwater. Off Licence products are not sold in Chorleywood Store. E&OE. FREEPHONE 0800 526 002 for details of your nearest Budgens Supermarket (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm).

# Shanghai shines in new cultural revolution



James Pringle in Shanghai contrasts the drabness of the Mao era with the bustling city's high-rise renaissance

ALDOUS HUXLEY once described Shanghai as "life itself — nothing more intensely living can be imagined". But the elegant and squalid city they once called the Paris of the East was for more than 40 years of Communist rule from 1949 just a pale imitation of the rumbustious melting pot it was in the 1920s and 1930s.

Punished first by Mao for its imperialist past, then by his successors for its radical leftism during the Cultural Revolution, Shanghai remained largely moribund even as the southern coastal provinces began their economic take-off from 1979 under the free-market policy and opening up to the outside world of Deng Xiaoping, the late reformist leader. One official here said Shanghai did not begin its explosive growth until 1992 because the Chinese leadership still feared attack across the East China Sea from Japan.

But now Shanghai has made up economic ground so fast and conspicuous consumption is so prevalent that a senior Roman Catholic churchman said last week: "The greatest threat to Catholicism is not the Communist Party but rampant materialism". A sign near Hongqiao airport bears Shanghai's latest credo: "Development is the irrefutable imperative." Shanghai is being projected — some say hyped — as a 21st-century city, comparable to Seattle and Singapore. While that is almost certainly premature, the hopes of the party economic reformers in Beijing are pinned on the city, and on its giant satellite of Pudong. This lies east across the Heungpu River, and was

described in an 1983 guidebook as a largely uninteresting industrial area. It is now a powerhouse of high-tech, high-rise development built with foreign capital and low-wage Chinese migrant workers on party orders.

"Shanghai is a giant experiment," said a foreign executive. "It's allowing bankruptcies, mass lay-offs of moribund state-run industry workers and their re-employment. This is the one Chinese city where they feel relatively secure doing this. If it works

here it can work in the rest of China — though, of course, experiments can also go wrong." That is what worries the authorities here, and that is why the Communist Party applies both ideological tightness and careful, if discreet, surveillance by security

police. With the return of Hong Kong to Chinese rule at the end of this month, and the fifteenth party congress in the autumn, Chinese leaders are ultra-sensitive to any form of unrest. Diplomats say there is a "real concern about stability because of growing unemployment and wealth disparity". Senior officials candidly admit that Shanghai newspapers are under orders not to mention when a migrant worker is involved in a crime, though most Shanghai believe most crimes are committed by these migrants from poor inland provinces.

Foreign envoys say everything — worker unrest, residents' anger at leaving their old homes for distant suburbs and cultural life — are quite tightly controlled. One diplomat said that, even as the city proudly shows off its splendid new museum and a giant new



Modern glass and steel buildings dominate the Shanghai skyline. The one-time "Paris of the East" is now aspiring to match the prosperity of Seattle or Singapore

theatre and opera house under construction, "you can count on one hand, possibly two, the number of foreign films passed last year for showing in local cinemas". Shanghai, after all, has a reputation for unpredictable political twists and turns: the ruinous Cultural Revolution began here. Yet optimism is the watchword as Shanghai prepares for the Hong Kong handover. While some low-level officials see Shanghai taking over Hong Kong's mantle as China's financial centre, senior officials know Shanghai still has a long way to go. Still, there is a

sense that new Shanghai is a home-grown creation, while Hong Kong, with its British past, is not.

Xu Kuangdi, the Mayor, put it tactfully: "Shanghai and Hong Kong will be like a violin and a piano making beautiful music together."

Zhai Qizheng, the deputy Mayor, a 57-year-old former nuclear physicist known as Mr Pudong for his spearheading of development in what in 1990 were largely muddy rice-fields, foresees an economic corridor extending from Tokyo to Singapore and taking in both Shanghai and Hong

Kong. Farmers' sons and daughters becoming computer programmers and business executives will help fuel Shanghai's boom, though not displace Hong Kong, he says. "Two lamps shining in China are better than one," he adds. "Shanghai cannot replace Hong Kong, Hong Kong cannot replace Shanghai."

From the granite Bund, the embankment where the British set up their banks and trading houses, to Pudong, with its giant television tower, its Times Square and its noisy construction sites — there are 23,000 in Shanghai, using 17

per cent of the world's cranes, city officials boast — there is a sense of bustling purpose and determination.

As a rare visitor to Shanghai in 1972, when the Gang of Four held sway, I found a city of fear where only a few old men were bold enough to whisper a welcome. There were only six foreigners (now there are 26,000 in a population of 13.5 million) then living in a city of Red Guards and workers' militias. I recall feeling lonely and miserable, then entering the eighth-floor restaurant of the Peace Hotel. I was astonished to recognise

the film actress Nancy Kwan, who had starred with William Holden in *The World of Suzie Wong*. She charmingly agreed to an interview on how she saw Mao's China, and I took notes with frozen fingers as junks sailed past on the Huangpu below in a city that suddenly felt less gloomy.

Shanghai is certainly not gloomy nowadays — even the migrant workers seem cheerful, dodging traffic while carrying girders to sites of new high rises replacing old quarters from which residents are removed to far-away new public housing schemes in

What they are doing here is quite remarkable," said one diplomat. "The sense of common purpose in the leadership is impressive, and the hype is justified if you compare the situation at the beginning of the decade with now."

## Tiananmen vigil sends democracy call to Beijing

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY  
IN HONG KONG

WITH the largest turnout in years, Hong Kong remembered Tiananmen Square last night on the eighth anniversary of the massacre. More than 60,000 people waved candles against the night sky and before a huge sign saying "Fight to the end".

It was a huge rebuke to Tung Chee-hwa, Chief Executive-designate, who two days earlier had called on people here to "put the baggage of Tiananmen behind you". Mr Tung has also repeatedly talked of sinister influences poised to create disorder in Hong Kong.

The centrepiece of this year's demonstration and vigil was a tall stone monument called *The Pillar of Shame* displaying piles of dead and dying people. There was also the usual replica of the "Goddess of Democracy" holding aloft the flame of freedom; the original had been erected in Tiananmen just before the final crackdown and was smashed to pieces by a tank.

It was to this statue that some of Hong Kong's leading democrats, holding torches, brought flowers, before bowing three times in respect to the hundreds who died on the same night eight years ago.

What was foremost in the



A family joins the 60,000 people at a candlelit vigil in Hong Kong yesterday

want my daughters to tell my grandchildren about these demonstrations."

Near them an elderly man wore a T-shirt with a picture of the late Deng Xiaoping, who ordered the tanks into Tiananmen in 1989. Under the picture were the words "Want-for murder".

A cleaner in a university said: "We Chinese do not forget these things. Even the friends of Beijing in Hong Kong feel pain in their hearts tonight about Tiananmen."

Outside the park there were acute feelings. "I never come to things like this," said a middle-aged woman before the demonstration. "No matter how badly they treat us, we

Chinese never ask our parents to say they are sorry."

Seto Wah, also a council member, shouted to the crowd: "Redress Tiananmen." He was greeted with a roar of "Yes".

Robin Munro, director of the Hong Kong office of the New York-based Human Rights Watch: Asia, who like many Western journalists in Victoria Park last night had been in Tiananmen in 1989, said: "They'll never be able to squash these demonstrations. Even if the new government has the temerity to try to stop them next year, these people will come with arms locked and maybe with bandages over their mouths."

Family service: Families of students killed at Tiananmen Square laid flowers and swept graves at Beijing cemeteries yesterday. James Pringle writes.

"It's impossible to forget," said Ding Zilin, whose son Jiang Jielian, a high-school student, was killed there at the age of 17. He was joined by his wife at a private memorial service for their son. They and 41 other bereaved parents sent a petition to the National People's Congress, China's parliament, last month seeking an official inquiry into the massacre and dialogue with the Government. They asked that their children be considered as patriots.

The commission says the alleged fraud began at least three years ago.

Trading in shares of Sing Tao, the papers' parent company, was suspended yesterday amid talk that the group, valued at £20 million, was to be sold.

Rumours of a sell-off have been denied for weeks by Sally Aw, the publisher, but staff members on the *Hong Kong Standard* said yesterday that they believed a sale was imminent.

Seoul: A South Korean student group which has clashed violently with police acknowledged yesterday its members beat a man who died after their interrogation over whether he was a police informer.

The group said it was suspending its street protests demanding President Kim Young Sam's resignation and dispersing thousands of students who had gathered at Seoul university campuses.

Mr Lee was the second person to die in five days of violence arising from student protests. On Monday, a policeman was killed after being run over by an armoured police car during a chaotic retreat by officers from stones and firebombs hurled by students. (AP)

# THE WIN-WIN WINDFALL PEP

## WIN IF HALIFAX SHARES RISE.\* WIN IF THEY FALL.

If you are about to receive Halifax shares, you will want to benefit from any growth in their value.



And, you will not want to lose any money.

To cash in on Halifax growth tax free, apply now for the "Win-Win" PEP from Advance Call.

- Returns Halifax growth\* or your money back after 5 years.
- Accepts Halifax Shares, cash or both.
- Limited offer — must close 19th June.

Advance Call

0800 22 20 20

FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY BUT CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE A PENNY

ADVANCE YOUR HALIFAX SHARES. CALL 0800 22 20 20 NOW FOR A FULL INFORMATION PACK

Open Seven Days a Week

Open 1000-1800 7 days a week

\*After allowing for averaging in the final 12 months. Dividend income not re-invested. This product is subject to certain investment risks. It is intended as a five year investment and these benefits are dependent on the investment being held for the full term. If you withdraw the investment before the end of the five year term, the benefits are based on current taxation and PEP regulations, and their interpretation, in the UK and Ireland, which may be subject to change in the future. The investment is not suitable for everyone. If you have any doubt whether it is suitable for you, you should obtain expert advice. All telephone conversations are recorded. Advance Call is a Service Mark of Advance Call Limited, issued by Advance Call Limited, P.O. Box 163, Fleet, Hampshire GU13 8QE.

Algerians to poll shadow civil wa

Military muffles the voices of dissent as violence mars eve of election

# Algerians go to polls in shadow of civil war

FROM PETER SHAW-SMITH IN ALGIERS

ALGERIANS go to the polls today seeking a way out of a civil war that has claimed an estimated 60,000 lives in five years and cast a pall of fear and tension across North Africa's largest Arab country.

The panorama of the Bay of Algiers — a 15-mile expanse of harbour, ships and lights that twinkle amiably at night — gives no hint of a society so at odds with itself. But there is a darker side behind the facade of normality. Under Algeria's military-backed regime, the population is wary and silent.

About 40 parties will contest the election, but only five are likely to make any real impression on the make-up of the 380-seat National Assembly.

President Zeroual retains sweeping powers under the 1996 referendum, including the appointment of a third of the upper chamber, the Majlis el-Umma.

The few people here who are willing to speak freely are reluctant to back the Government's slogan that this election is about "the consecration of

The FIS remains outlawed



Algerian security forces surround the body of an alleged terrorist they killed in an Algiers street, watched by residents from their doorways. In another

but the administration has spared no effort to portray the elections as free and fair. The official Algeria Press Service spoke of foreign journalists' "joy" to be here, while Monday's evening news showed soldiers and security officers casting their votes. APS reports that 244 international observers are here to monitor the poll.

A group of foreign journal-

outbreak of pre-election violence in a city that has suffered five years of bloodshed, a bomb exploded in a crowded market, killing ten people and

injuring another 40. Security was being stepped up yesterday as millions prepared to vote today in the first general election since 1992. (Reuters)

ists were taken by officials to a farm where Ahmed, a 15-year-old youth, was killed in April by a group of 40 armed men who came down from nearby mountains. When the boy's father was questioned he looked to the officials for a prompt, and was recorded as asking: "What should I say to these journalists?"

In one recent massacre re-

ported in the Algerian press,

the administration claimed that 42 people were killed by Islamic extremists in the region of Medea, 50 miles southwest of Algiers.

However, a former journal-

ist, who was elected as the FIS MP for Sidi Aissa in December 1991 and was placed under arrest for four days in January 1992 before fleeing the country, gives a different version of the massacre. He claims that

an Islamic group had killed 24 armed paratroopers in the region. Two days later, as a reprisal, he said, the army dropped napalm on the site and surrounded the area. Then they went in and killed 135 people, including women and children.

The former MP said: "If you trust the people, as I did in 1991, you are hated by the military."

## US panel to rule on human clones

Washington: Scientists should be able to create cloned human embryos, although they should be banned from creating cloned human babies, an American government ethics commission is expected to recommend on Saturday (Bronwen Maddow writes).

The report is expected to say that privately funded scientists should be allowed to make cloned human embryos for research but not implant them in womb. The 15-strong National Bioethics Advisory Commission has been entrusted with finding common ground between doctors who say that such research is needed and religious groups who oppose it. The panel's work began in February after Scottish scientists announced the existence of the cloned sheep Dolly.

## Troops resign in tax battle

Oslo: Joergen Kosmo, the Norwegian Defence Minister, yesterday attempted to prevent the resignation of most of Norway's peacekeeping battalion in Bosnia by guaranteeing tax-free overseas allowances through 1997, the Defence Ministry said. Eighty per cent of the 700 troops with the Norwegian Mechanised Battalion operating with the United Nations force resigned after the Government told them they must pay tax on an overseas allowance. "I guarantee that the overseas allowance will be tax-free through 1997," Mr Kosmo said. Battalion representatives in Oslo have recommended that the soldiers withdraw their resignation. (AFP)

## Rao forgery case dropped

Delhi: Charges in a forgery trial were dropped against P. V. Narasimha Rao, the former Indian Prime Minister. It was one of three criminal cases which had forced him to quit last year as Congress party leader. Judge Ajit Bharkhode dismissed the Government's claim that Mr Rao had been involved in an attempt in 1989 to defame V. P. Singh, an opposition leader who later became Prime Minister. "The judge said there was no evidence of conspiracy," said R. K. Anand, Mr Rao's lawyer. "It is a big victory." (Reuters)

## Extra time for jailed Tapie

Paris: Bertrand Tapie, right, the jailed bankrupt French tycoon, was sentenced to another six months on tax evasion charges — for passing off pleasure cruises on his luxury yacht as business expenses. The appeals court upheld a lower court's conviction a year ago that Tapie had evaded more than FF12 million (£2 million) in taxes. Tapie, 54, is serving eight months for rigging a football match while he was boss of Marseilles. (Reuters)

## India caught in missile row

Karachi: Reacting to a report in America that India has deployed medium-range Prithvi missiles along its border, Pakistan said it might seek a similar system to meet the threat (Zahid Hussain writes). The report in the *Washington Post* said India had moved more than a dozen missiles to Jullundur, an eastern Punjab town near the Pakistan border. An Indian Defence Ministry spokesman denied the story.

## Boeing pilot goes astray

Delhi: Indian police have charged a Saudi pilot with "irresponsible flying" after he landed his Boeing 747 with 344 people on board at a tiny military airbase instead of at nearby Madras airport. The jet's tyres burst as the pilot applied emergency brakes to avoid overshooting the runway. (AFP)

## Northern warlords unite to thwart Taliban

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS  
SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

ENEMIES of the Taliban Islamic army have forged a new military alliance in northern Afghanistan, amounting to a de facto division of the country in an intensifying civil war.

The strategic town of Jabal os-Siraj, 44 miles north of Kabul, the capital, is bearing the brunt of fighting. It is on the only all-weather road leading north to the Hindu Kush mountains, beyond which Taliban's enemies are massed. The war has also

returned to Kabul, a shattered city, for the first time since Taliban captured it eight months ago. An ammunition dump blew up in the Bala Hisar district yesterday, possibly from sabotage. Kabul is ethnically mixed, with many Shias, Tajiks and Uzbeks whose loyalties lie with anti-Taliban forces to the north. It is ripe for treachery.

Afghan volunteers are pouring into the Afghan border town of Spin Boldak to answer Taliban's call for tens of thousands of new recruits to enter the war. They have come from madrasas (reli-

gious schools), the traditional recruiting ground of Taliban, an army of students. Pakistan has done nothing to hinder their march to war; indeed, it may be encouraging it.

Pakistan has given up all pretences of neutrality in the war. Immigration officials and paramilitary guards on the border watch the tide of volunteers, many carrying the white flag of Taliban, without interfering.

Bus owners are making windfall profits carrying the recruits; would-be fighters also arrive hanging on to crowded trucks and jammed

into decrepit cars, evidently filled with zeal as they answer the call for a jihad (holy war) against the northerners.

Buses delivering the students to the border start their 80-mile journey from Quetta, capital of Baluchistan province. Recruits come from thousands of religious schools throughout Pakistan, most of them new to war but fired by the belief that this is a religious crusade.

Before receiving weapons and rations they are driven eight miles over bumpy roads to Spin Boldak to hear sermons from Taliban officials,

after which they are taken to the Taliban headquarters city of Kandahar. Many of these largely untrained men will be thrown into battle north of Kabul against the Tajik army of Ahmed Shah Massoud, a veteran fighter who is battling to retake Jabal os-Siraj.

He has seized some parts of the town, according to the Islamabad-based Afghan Islamic Press. It is a vital objective for General

HERBAL • EFFECTIVE • CLINICALLY RESEARCHED

## Male Urinary Discomfort?

Nothing is more disrupting for men than not being able to get a good night's sleep because of the urge 'to go', particularly in the small hours. Now, research proves that the active ingredient in Sabalin help reduce the need to urinate frequently and improves your flow, too! So you, (and your partner) can get a good night's sleep.

Sabalin is a traditional herbal remedy for the symptomatic relief of short-term male urinary discomfort. Strong and safe, it contains a highly potent extract of the Saw Palmetto fruit to provide gentle, yet effective relief for this inconvenient male problem.



## THE EFFECTIVE CHOICE

For more information on Sabalin and how its herbal ingredient can help you, or to buy mail order, call BioCare on 0121 433 3727.

Available at Boots, Superdrug, Holland & Barrett, Lloyds Chemists, GNC, Health & Diet Centres, chemists and health food stores.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

# DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER

She's a Page Three icon who acquired fame and fortune overnight. But her mother has disowned her and leering men are getting her down

MELINDA MESSENGER BARES HER SOUL THIS WEEKEND



THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

idents admit fatal beating

300

fall

ance

fall



**Dr Thomas Stuttaford** on limiting the steroid risk of osteoporosis; sunburnt heads; the importance of fibre in the diet; blood disorders; and the use of antidepressants

## Guarding against the side-effects of steroids

**A**fter many years in which the death rate from asthma has been steadily increasing it is at last beginning to fall despite an increased incidence of the condition. The probable reason is that doctors are now using corticosteroid treatment by mouth or injection more readily in severe attacks and are increasingly relying on inhaled steroids to keep the condition at bay.

The treatment of the life-threatening and unpleasant group of diseases known as the inflammatory bowel diseases has been so improved by the introduction of another steroid preparation, Entocort, that many more people are now able to live an ordinary life despite their troubles. Likewise patients are enabled to walk and use their other joints because of steroids, and many others would have been blinded by temporal arteritis but for the use of heavy doses of steroids as a first aid measure.

Despite the revolution which came about with the introduction of steroids they are still feared by the general public. Many parents, for instance fail to allow the wheezy child to obtain the relief from the symptoms of asthma by using a steroid inhaler as they fear, quite wrongly, that the patient might develop serious side effects. Any side effects from inhaled steroids are so mild as to be almost insignificant.

Any revolution, before it settles down, causes casualties and the steroid revolution was no exception. Nearly 50 years ago, when steroids were introduced, doctors temporarily lost their sense of caution and were dazzled by the power of the new group of drugs

and consequently prescribed them in unwisely large doses. Within a short time the side effects had wreaked terrible havoc among the patients. People found that with steroids their backs had become rounded and hunched, their faces moon-like, their bones crumpled with osteoporosis and their guts perforated. Some people became wildly manic while taking steroids; others, as I remember from a case I was looking after as a junior hospital doctor, were so depressed that they tried to jump out of the windows.

The stories of the early disasters of steroid therapy have lived on and have lost nothing in their retelling so that a mythology has developed about it which has not been dispelled by the very different circumstances which now exist. The use of much smaller doses, the introduction of improved preparations and the careful monitoring of all treatment has allowed doctors to utilise the advantage of steroids while minimising the chance of patients suffering any sudden disaster.

Although the severe osteoporotic bone-crushing days of the 1950s are over, even the smaller doses of steroid therapy taken continuously increases the likelihood that a patient will suffer some thinning of the bones.

Over a quarter of a million people in the United Kingdom now rely with great advantage to their health on continuous steroid therapy. Over 40 per cent of the patients on long-term treatment for asthma, however, suffer from osteoporosis that is severe enough for it to contribute to a fracture after a comparatively trivial injury. A similar percentage receiving treatment for

rheumatoid arthritis suffer collapse of a vertebra. Despite these figures and the obvious hazard they demonstrate of osteoporosis as a complication of long-term steroid therapy, only 50 per cent of the patients have been prescribed any treatment to protect the strength of their bones by preventing osteoporosis.

**B**ones are constantly remodelled — old bone is removed by cells known as osteoclasts, new bone is laid down by osteoblasts. A group of drugs, the diphosphonates, reduces the reabsorption of bone by inhibiting the action of osteoclasts; as a result the strength and bulk of the bones are increased.

One of the diphosphonate drugs, Didronel PMO (etidronate), which is supplied together with calcium supplements, has been approved this week by the authorities for the prevention of osteoporosis in patients regularly taking steroids. The combination is also useful in the treatment for prevention of all other types of established or insipient osteoporosis.

Didronel PMO is taken daily with water, when fasting, for a fortnight; thereafter calcium supplements are swallowed each day for two-and-a-half months. This cycle is repeated, and throughout the whole period the patient needs to be careful to maintain an adequate vitamin D intake.

### Anorexia and antidepressants

THE NEW antidepressants, the SHT reuptake inhibitors, are increasingly taking their rightful place in the treatment of many conditions which produce clinical depression. Drugs in this group have also proved useful in treating a variety of other conditions in which there may be a depressive element in the illness.

Research has already demonstrated the value of the SHT reuptake inhibitors in the care of patients with obsessive-compulsive disorder, Asperger's syndrome, panic attacks and many phobias.

Two recent reports on Prozac, which is one of the SHT reuptake inhibitors, have found two other indications for its prescription. At a conference in the United States there was an account of treating anorexia. Patients with anorexia who were given Prozac as part of their therapy were four times more likely to retain any weight gained during treatment than those patients who were given a placebo.

Other research showed that some forms of anger and aggression were also well controlled by Prozac. Many doctors have been using SHT reuptake inhibitors to treat selected cases of abnormally aggressive behaviour for some years, but often prefer to use one of the group with a more sedative action than Prozac.

MONDAY'S petition to advertise the advantages of the health-giving properties of modest amounts of red wine has already been accepted by the FDA and now appears on the company's bottles.

THE FDA has the daunting task of reading and reporting, within the next 90 days, on more than 18 volumes of research papers about the effect of the incidence of cancer of the colon, and other large bowel conditions, of the dietary fibre contained in wheat bran.

THE two Kellogg brothers, one a doctor, first discovered the process of flaking wheat 104 years ago, and 24 years later, had produced the first All Bran mixture. The claim on the value of fibre to the breakfast-eater's health is being submitted by Kellogg.

ITS basis is that colon cancer is associated with many factors, including diet. The manufacturers suggest that medical evidence collected for the past 25 years supports the premise that eating insoluble fibre from foods containing wheat-bran, or wholewheat, as part of a low-fat diet, reduces the risk of colon cancer.

Just as the health advantages of red wine are not

confined to that bestowed by Californian vintages, nor are the advantages of a low-fat, high-fibre diet restricted to Kellogg's fibre, to be beneficial, does not necessarily have to be eaten at breakfast but if it is, it contributes to the low-fat, high-polysaccharide early-morning diet favoured by diabetics as the best means of ending the nocturnal fast, and at the same time preventing a post-fast rise in blood pressure.

MONDAY'S petition to advertise the advantages of the health-giving properties of modest amounts of red wine has already been accepted by the FDA and now appears on the company's bottles.

THE amount of bran taken has to be considerable; an extra 12 grams — slightly more than a teaspoonful — has to be added to the diet.

MERELY scattering a tablespoonful of bran over porridge, breakfast foods, or stewed fruit is not going to have any appreciable influence on bowel action, or reduce the excretion of bile salts, which is thought to be another of the factors that makes bran anticancerous.

AN ANALYSIS of more than 55 surveys on the medicinal qualities of bran was reported a few years ago in the journal of the National Cancer Institute.

THE report showed that there is an inverse relationship between the amount of fibre in

the diet, and the incidence of cancer of the colon — the more fibre eaten, the less chance of developing a malignant growth in the large gut.

A HIGH wheat-bran diet, taken for two years or more, has also been shown to reduce the rate at which premalignant colonic polyps form in people who have a hereditary tendency to develop them.

THE AMERICAN National Research Council advocates that the low-fat diet, now universally recommended, should be accompanied by more fruit, vegetables and whole-grain cereal products.

PEOPLE worry, not without good cause, that a high-fibre diet could cause socially unacceptable wind. As baked-bean eaters have long known, excessive wind is initially a complication of any fibre-rich diet, but this disadvantage becomes progressively less as the body becomes accustomed to the change.

EXCESSIVE wind is also less likely if food is eaten slowly. One consolation for those who like to take their fibre in the form of All Bran, or in other wheat products, is that wheat-bran ferments more slowly than fibre derived from fruits or oats. Too many apples may therefore be more upsetting to the guts than an equivalent amount of fibre derived from wheat.

For the cure of stammering

**DEL FERRO INSTITUTE**

Apollolaan 50 NL-1077 BB AMSTERDAM

TEL: 00 31 20 6761196 FAX: 00 31 20 6751024



The skin of the scalp and face is particularly sensitive to sun and prolonged exposure could lead to skin cancer, as well as several lesser skin disorders

### Head for protection during a heatwave

MEETS the recommendation of the Health Education Authority. It is non-greasy, non-scented, is not obvious and does not make a mess of any of the hair which a man may still have. Scalp Bloc is not only likely to be useful to those who spend their life out of doors or holidaymakers, but also to the short-cropped as well as the bald.

### Problems with the blood

THIS WEEK Dr Christine Lee, a consultant haematologist and director of the haemophilia unit at the Royal Free Hospital, London, has been made the first professor of haemophilia in the country.

The hospital's haemophilia unit studies and treats bleeding disorders where the patient has an abnormal tendency to bleed, or has blood that clots too readily. The unit also cares for the growing number of patients on anti-coagulant therapy, which is likely to increase as more patients with atrial fibrillation (cardiac arrhythmia) are prescribed Warfarin.

Professor Lee, Dr Relan Ahmed, a research fellow in the obstetrics and gynaecology department at the Royal Free, together with Mr Dimitrius Economides, a consultant at the hospital and a senior lecturer in the university, have been investigating women who have heavy periods. Most doctors tend to look for the obvious causes of heavy periods such as fibroids, pelvic infection, thyroid disease and endometriosis, and carry out a full blood count to exclude the more sinister anaemias. If they draw a blank with these, they

attribute the menorrhagia to dysfunctional uterine bleeding, which is thought to result from abnormalities in the hypothalamic-pituitary axis.

The Royal Free team has studied the blood of all patients aged 16-50 who have attended the hospital complaining of heavy menstrual bleeding but in whom no obvious cause can be found.

Twelve per cent of the women who could readily have been classified as having dysfunctional uterine bleeding had one of the hereditary disorders of blood-clotting. As a result of their research, Professor Lee, Dr Ahmed and Mr Economides recommend that any woman who has a normal pelvic examination but suffers from menorrhagia should be screened to exclude a bleeding disorder, especially von Willebrand's disease, an abnormality in, or deficiency of, one of the plasma proteins.

In some cases, heavy periods can be successfully treated with a nasal spray.

Awareness of a tendency to bleed is useful so that appropriate measures can be taken before women have dental treatment, surgery or give birth. Patients should also avoid aspirin.

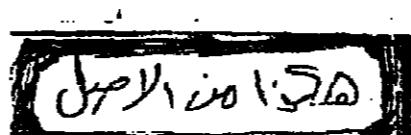


Anorexia: Prozac has proved a successful therapy

## NOT ONLY DO DAEWOO GIVE YOU 3 YEARS FREE COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE...

...subject to status, of course. We also give you: 3 year/60,000 mile free servicing including parts and labour, 3 year/60,000 mile comprehensive warranty, 3 year Daewoo Total AA Cover and a 6 year anti-corrosion warranty. Daewoo prices range from £9,445 to £13,735 for the 3, 4 and 5 door Nexia and Espero saloon. Call 0800 666 222.

MORE FOR YOUR MONEY AS STANDARD? THAT'LL BE THE DAEWOO.



# Pioneer poet of the American wilderness

The life of E. Annie Proulx is almost as magical and exotic as her fiction. At an age when most people are settling for a slow retirement, she is engaged in a fever of activity: rising at 4am to write, skiing, hunting, canoeing, building and hiking. "Oh, and mountain-biking," she cuts in, with no trace of irony. "I've recently taken up mountain-biking. It's terrific fun." It is worth pausing to remember that this is a woman soon to celebrate her 62nd birthday.

Proulx (pronounced to rhyme with Crewel) is accurately acclaimed as a pioneer spirit, a writer from the frontier for whom the great outdoors is a redemptive arena. She lives alone in a large, echoing house high up in the Rockies at Wyoming. The air is thin and bracing there, from her front porch she can see for miles. She loves the rugged terrain and the extremes of the climate. There is snow on the ground for at least eight months of the year, and for much of the time there is a big, dipping wind.

After three failed marriages and many restless years roaming across America, Proulx feels settled in Wyoming and is enjoying a period of

E. Annie Proulx wrote her first novel at the age of 56 — and has been winning awards ever since. Her latest book was shortlisted for the Orange Prize. Interview by Jason Cowley



Late starter: E. Annie Proulx hopes she will live long enough to complete "all those books stacked up in my head"

remarkably sustained creativity. Her visit to London coincides with the appearance of her new novel, *Accordion Crimes*, which was shortlisted for the Orange Prize. She strides into the foyer of her central London hotel with an intimidating vigour and purpose. Tall and big-boned, she carries herself like a man. Her handshake is firm.

Though it is a hot, humid afternoon, she is dressed entirely in black, down to the frames of her wire-rimmed spectacles. She has the pallor of Andy Warhol, her blonde eyebrows incongruous beneath her dark fringe. She has (unfairly) been tagged an awkward customer, one who unashamedly terminates interviews if asked a "banal or idiotic" question. Such as? "Oh, I don't know," she says. "Something like, 'what is this book about?'" Oh dear, there goes my next question.

A woman of paradoxes, Proulx craves solitude but also surrounds herself with a close network of friends — people who share her exuberance and violent energy. "My friends are the kind of people who step over borders, move in and out of several languages easily," she says.

"They are people who keep residence in gritty places and like music and food and cooking; people who have lots of boyfriends and girlfriends and are always entangled and in libellous situations. These are the kind of people I like, and this is the kind of life I have."

Proulx speaks as she writes: in tumbling torrents of words. She is a writer in a hurry, haunted by lost time, the years she spent "doing things that I never wanted to do, things like getting married". She feels the lost years like a burden. "I came to writing late and am racing to get everything down; my head is full of stories."

Asked about her marriages, she becomes shy and evasive. "I always hated domestic situations. I don't think I was a particularly good or diligent mother [she has four adult children]. I grew up at a time when you were supposed to get married and I guess I was a slow learner. It took me a long time for the obvious to become obvious: I could not operate in a conventional family."

When you are in a domestic situation, you can't get up in the middle of the night, turn the music on and start writing; or go to bed in the middle of the afternoon. So it wasn't

until my last child left home — when I had no responsibilities beyond myself — that I began writing."

As a result, her first novel, *Postcards*, was not published until she was 56. It's about a man who kills his girlfriend, buries her body on the family farm and then flees from his guilty secret. Like all of her books, it features a long, anguished journey across America. For Proulx, America remains a "vast continent of discovery", a vessel of migration and new beginning.

*Postcards*, though full of good things, offered no hint of what was to

come. For Proulx's second book, *The Shipping News*, is one of those rare things: a narrative so fresh and unexpected that its author's life is utterly transformed by it.

*The Shipping News* won many major fiction prizes, including the Pulitzer, US National Book Award and the *Irish Times* Award. It was translated into 20 languages and sold about three million copies worldwide, a figure more usually associated with a pop record. Proulx is humbly flummoxed by its success.

"People tell me that I have a global readership, but I just can't explain

why; I just don't get it. I expected the book to sell no more than a thousand copies."

The fortune she must have earned is invested in a trust fund for her children. "I am not a money person," she says. "I pay myself a not very staggering salary and I live very modestly. So it's there, but I don't use it. It's not my thing."

*Accordion Crimes* spans 100 years and follows the fortunes of five generations of immigrants. They are linked by a green accordion, which serendipitously passes from hand to hand, across the country and down the years. The book is constructed on an epic scale, rather like America itself. There is music and dance, murder and mayhem.

It is exhausting to read — precisely because Proulx has inexhaustible energy. There is no risk that she will not take. No facet of life in which she is not interested. "The book is an examination of the American obsession with self-discovery, with self-invention," she says. "In no other country is it given that you will reinvent yourself — and you can. I mean, you can change; you face, your shape, your name, even

'My friends are people who keep residence in gritty places; people who have lots of boyfriends and girlfriends'

your relatives. I find this rather intriguing and wonder if it is the seminal point of departure for this whole attitude wasn't the immigrant experience, where people were forced, as soon as they set foot on shore, to start reinventing themselves."

Proulx knows all about self-reinvention. Born in August 1935, she grew up in rural Vermont. Her Québécois father was a travelling textiles executive; her mother a resolute Yankee. Her early years were marked by constant upheaval and movement. She was the eldest of five sisters and her peripatetic childhood left her with an inability to put down roots. She dropped out of various colleges, had "terrible marriages", drifted and travelled, brought up her children in poverty while all the time harbouring a "secret desire" to write.

Proulx refuses to acknowledge that there is a streak of obsessiveness in her character, despite the contradiction in her reply: "I'm not obsessed with writing," she says. Then, in the next breath, she explains that she is simultaneously working on three books — a novel, a novella and a collection of stories — that she travels across the country compiling thousands of pages of research material for each book and frequently becomes hooked on certain writers so that she "gorges on their work until I feel sick with excess".

You know, the best part of writing *Accordion Crimes* was that it gave me a chance to roam about America listening to music for a year or two," she says.

To get the background right for the Tex-Mex section, for instance, I hung out in Texas with my friend Pat Jasper. Together we went down to the nightclubs in Houston, San Antonio and Austin and we just went for it. I gathered so much material that I had to leave 90 per cent of it out of the book. I had a great time, though."

After what she calls the "fabulous distraction" of her visit to London, Proulx is anxious to return to Wyoming and to her writing. Time spent away from her desk is wasted time, for E. Annie Proulx waited so long to become a writer that her greatest fear is that she will die before she can complete "all those books that I've got stacked up in my head".

● *Accordion Crimes* is published by Fourth Estate, £6.99.

## Confronting the ghosts of Berlin's past

Eva Figes returned to Germany in search of her lost childhood

I have just come back from a very special week in Berlin, the city where I was born. I left it in the spring of 1939, shortly before my seventh birthday. My father was a well-to-do businessman, my parents were thoroughly assimilated Jews and I had never been to a synagogue in my life. I remember a life of servants, a yacht on Havel, my nursemaid taking me to the zoo almost daily. I did not know that my father had already been in a concentration camp and that we lived in fear of our lives.

At the airport that morning in March 1939 to see us off were my widowed grandmother, who would survive in hiding until 1944, when she escaped to Sweden; my aunt, who got to London a few months later, and my maternal grandparents, who, if they changed their minds about emigrating, left it too late.

For the past 25 years the Berlin Senate has put aside part of its budget to invite Berlin-born Jews who were driven out by the Nazis to return for a short stay. I decided to go by myself. I had special reasons for taking up my invitation now. It was time to confront old ghosts, old traumas, and that is best done by oneself. Not that I was exactly alone. My group included 85 other "Berliners", and the fact that I was part of such a large crowd of people with similar histories and griefs made all of us open up in a way which would not otherwise have been possible. Most of them had never been back to Germany. I had, but on previous visits I kept my emotions under wraps. And I never confided in people.

Still, as the plane began its descent to Tegel airport, I was more than usually apprehensive about landing on German soil. My chief fear was that the Berlin government was trying to buy me off, so to speak, by giving me a good time. And I had a more serious agenda. Would it be considered in the worst possible taste to mention that my grandparents had been killed in a concentration camp and I wanted to know which one? But all of us were impressed by the kindness and

sensitivity we were shown. On our arrival we were each given a huge dossier of information, not just details of the programme for the week, but addresses which would enable us to find out about Jewish deportations, or to claim belated restitution. And the programme of events also showed a balance between a celebration of our return and a solemn recognition of the dreadful events that had driven us out of our homeland.

Many German Jews protested to leave Germany, but most of us have very mixed feelings. Distress, yes, but also curiosity, and a yearning to revisit the scenes of lost childhood and youth. Because of the circumstances of our expulsion, this homesickness is more powerful and painful than for the dim and distant past.

I did what I had to do, what I had been putting off for far too long. On a grey, rainy morning I went to the Jewish Community Library just off the Kurfürstendamm and asked to consult the memorial book for Berlin deportees. And there it was in black and white: Emil Cohen, likewise *Ella Cohen*, deported on April 2, 1942, to Trawniki. Place of death, Trawniki-Verschollen. Missing, lost. The word appears against almost every name in the massive, horribly heavy volume. A place of mass shootings. One question answered, many more to go.

After I left the Jewish Library I sat for a long time under the blue stained glass dome of the new Memorial Church which stands only yards from my childhood home. I cried, and it was not the only occasion during that week that I cried.

But I also walked the streets for hours, searching for familiar landmarks. I bought chocolate ladybirds for my grandchildren, the sort I had been given as a child. And, on a sunny afternoon shortly before it was time to come home, I went to the zoo, and heard the voices of children speaking a language I still understood, and felt, if only for the moment, at peace.

● *The Knot*, by Eva Figes, is published by Minerva, £6.99.

**VOLVO OWNERS** COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE FROM £120

Extra Safety = Lower Insurance

Low Cost Schemes for Volvos

Tel: 01403 260822 NOW!

or Phone your Nearest Branch at the Local Rate on

0345 123111

Ask for a quote on the internet: <http://www.hhh.co.uk>

**Hill House Hammond** Over 250 Branches Nationwide

# ....BUT WE ALSO GIVE YOU UP TO £750 OF DAEWOO ELECTRONIC GOODS.

As part of our 30th anniversary celebrations, every private customer can choose one of these offers. (Written details for all offers available on request.) Call 0800 666 222.

1.) £500 worth of fuel vouchers.

2.) £500 cashback.

3.) Choice of up to £750 worth of Daewoo electronic products.

4.) £500 towards your deposit with Daewoo Direct Finance. Typical APR 11.2%.

30TH ANNIVERSARY SALE OFFERS? THAT'LL BE THE DAEWOO.

## We can have more bangs for our bucks

Give Labour's defence review a fair wind, urges David Hart

When announcing his defence review last week, George Robertson, the new Secretary of State, said that he intended to use outside specialists and sought consensus across the political spectrum. For the past four years I have advised two Defence Secretaries: Malcolm Rifkind and Michael Portillo. Although I am an outsider, if not yet quite a specialist, I have no yet received the call from Mr Robertson. Perhaps he feels that including me in any group hoping to achieve consensus is beyond even new Labour. Accordingly, I offer a few thoughts here.

Although some of my friends at the ministry will disagree, there is no shortage of money in the defence budget. There is no need even to consider reducing commitments on budgetary grounds because there is still plenty of scope for further efficiencies and modernisation. The Defence Costs Study, which was a considerable success but could have been taken significantly further, needs to be taken to its next, logical stage — a renewed effort to find efficiency savings coupled with radical reform of management processes.

First, a yardstick needs to be created and continually refined to measure how well the budget is being spent. That will be resisted by many senior officials. Even so, it must be done. The only sensible measure is a ratio of budget to war-fighting capability. In other words, a measure of how much bang we actually get for our buck. Some may argue that there are imponderables that cannot be measured, such as the morale of fighting troops. But there are already effective ways to measure military capability in use in the MoD now.

Mr Rifkind set up an operational audit group which reported directly to him and subsequently to Mr Portillo. Its task was to report on actual rather than paper capability. Both found it invaluable. The organisation, while praised by the more intelligent officials, made some enemies because it revealed embarrassing weaknesses.

It is absolutely vital that it is not shunted into the wilderness. Mr Robertson needs to love it and use it not only to audit operational capability but also, with help from financial experts, to start to actually measure how well the ministry converts its budget.

The ministry has not been a good procurer and has been a worse maintainer. Wherever possible, risk should be transferred to the private sector. That means water-tight fixed-price contracts for equipment and maintenance. Why not privatise the Procurement Executive and pay it a performance-related fee for each procurement? And all large maintenance operations should be done by the private sector, too.

There will be considerable resistance, particularly from the RAF, which likes to maintain its own aircraft. But it has

The private sector should have to take the risk

not been an efficient user of taxpayers' money. It does need a core of maintainers who are capable of being deployed into operational theatres where civilians cannot go. RAF personnel should be contracted to private-sector companies that provide maintenance to the MoD so that they are available for such deployment. The Royal Navy already has all its ships refitted by the private sector, including its most prized Trident submarines.

The relationship between ministers and decision-making also needs urgent attention. There is far too little transparency. One glaring example is where senior officers, with the help of civil servants, conduct inter-Service trades. The business is done with great delicacy. An officer in the outer office of the chief of one Service will have a quiet word with an officer in the outer office of the chief of another Service. His man is not averse to the first chief's proposal for a particular equipment; could he possibly help with a proposal that is close to the heart of his own chief?

The bargain is struck. The papers are written and the separate decisions are presented to ministers on separate occasions for their approval. Ministers have no idea that a trade has taken place. The papers that they are given are often brilliantly argued and may well leave out facts and arguments that do not help the case, so the poor ministers have little choice but to agree.

The size of the management apparatus is another cause of concern. There are still more civil servants than there are men and women in the Army. One area ripe for reduction is in the accounting departments. The traditional way of policing budgets is either for the centre to retain control, or for the Civil Service to scrutinise all significant spending decisions made by military officers. Both inhibit proper management. One officer told me that he felt as though he were surrounded by a "cloud of electrons".

All budgets should be properly delegated with full authority. That one step would save hundreds of millions of pounds annually. And the scrutiny function should finally be abandoned and replaced by an annual audit, just as in the private sector. It will, of course, be resisted on the grounds of accountability to Parliament. In fact, private-sector companies are much more accountable than military budget holders.

For Mr Robertson to seek a bipartisan approach is thoroughly welcome, except apparently to the Conservative Opposition, which I regret. The defence of the realm is the highest duty of government and if it could be taken out of the political cockpit there would be greater stability in the Armed Forces. Mr Robertson has a great opportunity. Although he will be told that it is impossible, if he is bold he can save money and increase our fighting capability.

NOT SINCE the voters of Tatton handed Martin Bell his mandate as the constituency's new MP has Neil Hamilton suffered such a rebuff. After sending begging letters to all manner of London literary agents, he has received a succession of rejections.

This bodes ill for a man who said in defeat: "If I am no longer an MP, then I will have to gain my income from books and journalism." A flurry of radio and television appearances immediately after the election was followed by a foohardy appearance with his terrifying wife Christine on *Have I Got News for You*. Hamilton's new task is to pursue the promise of the written word.

At a party to celebrate the 50th birthday of Pan, the publishers, a number of literary agents confirmed that they had been approached by Hamilton. Furthermore, none of them admitted to signing him up.

Yesterday, at his London home — the Cheshire house is reportedly going to be offered for sale — Christine was dismissive of inquiries: "If Neil wants to talk to you about it, he will phone you."

Presumably, Hamilton proposes to write "the truth" about the



Status: Tory veteran seeking conversion to spearhead attack.

Type: Double-seated Blair-combat (Dorrell/Heseltine close support).

Performance: New "delay Euro" configuration. Max. weight and thrust may not prove sufficient for lift-off.

5 vi 97  
Peter Brookes

## Not bad, for lotto clottos

Have faith in our charities, says

Magnus Linklater

Charity begins at home is one of the bleaker Victorian expressions. It smacks of pursed lips and parochialism. Like many a grim Christian stricture it was coined by St Paul: "If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house," he wrote in his Epistle to Timothy, "he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

The National Lottery has attracted numerous insults since it was set up — "fat cats" is the latest — but has not so far been called an infidel. That may come. A hall of abuse has landed on the lottery's charities board for giving £25 million to projects abroad. A grant for tree-planting in the Solomon Islands caused particular offence, but aid for economic self-reliance in Uganda, and educating the children of Bedouin Arabs were among the grants subjected to ritual invective.

*The Sun* led the chase in characteristic style. It set up an instant hotline and got 30,000 readers to protest. "Lotto Clotto" was the discerning headline it used to describe the board's spokesman. The *Daily Mail* piled it on: "Lottery Cash Goes Abroad," it complained. "UK children suffer while money goes to palm trees project in the Solomons." The mood was caught on the BBC when one of the panellists on *Any Questions*, attacked the notion of sending money abroad. "Charity in this instance definitely begins at home," he said to loud applause.

*Any Questions* has a knack of reflecting Middle England at its most chauvinist, or, to pinch a rather good phrase of George Melly's, "striking the cracked Pavlovian gong." More worrying is the possibility that it may chime as well with the Government's own thinking. It is clear from the wholesale assault on the directors of Camelot by the Heritage Secretary, Chris Smith, that the current operations of the National Lottery itself are in the firing line.

A White Paper, promised for next month, will outline government thinking which at this stage shows no evidence of enthusiasm for the status quo. Instead, there are plans for the midweek lottery to be diverted into new ventures such as a "Peoples' Lottery", which sounds more like an engine for social change than an instrument of enhancing the life of the nation.

Ministers should, however, curb their more rapacious instincts and look coolly at what the lottery has achieved before tearing it apart. Whatever their faults, the directors of Camelot have delivered a highly efficient operation, with profits greatly exceeding initial estimates. The money has benefited worthwhile causes, from brass bands to community arts centres (I quickly declare an Arts Council interest, but plead the defence of factual reporting), as well as refurbishing crumbling museums and helping to build Britain's nascent film industry. They represent a Peoples' Lottery in everything but a name.

And so, too, do the tree-planters of the Solomon Islands. There, the rainforests have been almost wiped out by foreign logging companies, with devastating effects on the environment. A sum of about £20,000 is not much, but it will go to help families manage their local forests, replanting on a modest scale to begin redressing the balance and perhaps rescuing a fragile ecology.

To claim that no one in Britain is interested in the plight of a few distant islanders is the height of arrogance. In my experience of newspaper campaigns, only cancer and children outweigh foreign causes in eliciting support. Certainly in Scotland, the response to disasters abroad has been heartfelt. Regular convoys of lorries carried aid to Bosnia throughout the war, and continue to do so in its aftermath, funded entirely by Scottish donations. In Britain as a whole, 15 per cent of all charity donations already go to help causes abroad — the largest single area of charity giving.

The Charities Board, vilified by the tabloid press (and the occasional Tory minister) ever since it was launched, has in fact turned out to be one of the National Lottery's great success stories. Luke Fitzherbert, of the Directory of Social Change, highly critical of some of the lottery's other branches, believes it has done "a bloody good job", largely because it has brought detailed and objective assessment procedures to the previously haphazard system of giving. Its guidelines require it to be fair to every region, and even-handed in supporting different areas of charity work.

Those guidelines also enjoin it to help UK charities working abroad, and the £25 million it committed last week represents about 5 per cent of the total. So far it has given £500 million to nearly 8,000 charities in Britain — not bad for a "lotto clotto".

The Government should avoid making hasty changes to the lottery set-up. It should take a long look at what is working well within the organisation, rather than condemning it wholesale. And it should, above all, resist the temptation to be parochial. As one of the board members put it: "Charity may begin at home, but it doesn't necessarily end there."

## Europe on the defensive

As our anxious continent turns to the Left to create a comfort zone, we can only become even less competitive

Perhaps in next year's A-level economics paper the examiners will be asking the Guigou question. "The French Socialist Government wants to stop French car manufacturers shedding labour. The aim of this policy is to halt the rise of unemployment. What are the likely economic consequences of such a policy?"

The correct "Anglo-Saxon" answer to such a question would be: "The Guigou policy will raise unemployment, for two reasons: first, it will prevent French companies from raising levels of productivity in their existing plants, and will therefore make French cars less competitive; secondly it will encourage French companies to make new production investments in foreign countries where there are no such restraints on improving productivity." The correct "French" answer would be: "This policy will contribute to the social welfare of Europe by preventing the destruction of European jobs."

There is no doubt that this is Elizabeth Guigou's approach to employment policy. She is a powerful figure in the French Socialist Party, a former Minister for European Affairs. She has attacked Renault for the decision to close the *Vil Voo* factory in Belgium. Her line has been supported by a colleague's attack on Peugeot for laying off workers in France. The reason that Renault and Peugeot are having to lay off these workers is that the French car market has collapsed. A fall of more than 20 per cent this year is expected to be followed by a further fall of over 10 per cent in the next 12 months.

French socialists still believe that the "Anglo-Saxons" — by which they mean all those who accept free-market economics — are wrong, or at any rate that France is an exception. They think that Europe has a superior social economic tradition, and that interventions to protect producers from changes in the marketplace are both effective and good for society. It is not surprising that the French socialists believe this: all socialists used to believe it, as do many liberal Democrats in the United States, and many Christian democrats and left-wing conservatives in Europe.

Socialism was driven back in the 1990s only by the success of the Thatcher revolution in Britain, by the retreat from socialism in countries as far apart as China and Sweden, and

most of all, by the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

By 1990, many people thought that socialism, as a theory of economic organisation, was dead. But of course it is not. Socialism offers a systematic preference for the interest of producers, in this case the car workers, against that of consumers, in this case car buyers. Over time, it is in the interest of all producers to satisfy their customers, but in the short term the producer may well vote to be protected from competition. Socialism is sympathetic to this claim for protection. The effect of socialist intervention is to

slow down the response to changes in consumer demand, expressed through markets: indeed, it slows the whole process of specialisation of function and division of labour which allows economic advance to take place. Socialism is an anti-economic force, but it can be a popular one, particularly in a society in decline.

When a society turns to socialism, it means that it has gone on the defensive; the producer no longer equates competition with opportunity, but with danger. The French do indeed see the global market as a threat. Societies go on the defensive when they feel they are being outperformed by their competitors, and socialism seems to be a natural response. It is therefore a danger signal.

In the past month parties of the Left have won elections in Britain and France. The French Socialists are real

socialists, and they are going to be in coalition with the Communists. They believe that the French State can impose what they regard as social justice, that it has the right to take half the national income in taxes, and that it can impose its will on industry. The British Labour Party is no longer like that. Fortunately it is more socialist in its traditions than in its current beliefs. Nevertheless, even New Labour was elected as the party of the Left.

These two elections have taken the balance of the European Union far to the socialist or social democratic side.

As the table below shows, there are now ten social democratic parties which are in power either on their own, or as the leaders of coalition. Three more are junior partners in a coalition, though no one can forecast whether the Irish Labour Party will survive in office after the forthcoming election.

The only two countries where the socialist parties are not in office are Germany and Spain. The last fortnight has seen the German Government in disarray: there is no certainty that Chancellor Kohl will win the elections which are due next year. The European Union is now uncomfortably close to being a social democratic zone.

In Britain, we can take some comfort from the fact that our social democratic party is now Labour. Tony Blair has undoubtedly understood the nature of the competitive global economy, and has accepted the main themes of the Thatcher revolution,

though no one can forecast whether the Irish Labour Party will survive in office after the forthcoming election.

The only two countries

where the socialist parties are not in office are Germany and Spain. The last fortnight has seen the German Government in disarray: there is no certainty that Chancellor Kohl will win the elections which are due next year. The European Union is now uncomfortably close to being a social democratic zone.

In Britain, we can take some

comfort from the fact that our social democratic party is now Labour. Tony Blair has undoubtedly understood the nature of the competitive global economy, and has accepted the main themes of the Thatcher revolution,

though no one can forecast whether the Irish Labour Party will survive in office after the forthcoming election.

The only two countries where the socialist parties are not in office are Germany and Spain. The last fortnight has seen the German Government in disarray: there is no certainty that Chancellor Kohl will win the elections which are due next year. The European Union is now uncomfortably close to being a social democratic zone.

In Britain, we can take some

comfort from the fact that our social democratic party is now Labour. Tony Blair has undoubtedly understood the nature of the competitive global economy, and has accepted the main themes of the Thatcher revolution,

though no one can forecast whether the Irish Labour Party will survive in office after the forthcoming election.

The only two countries where the socialist parties are not in office are Germany and Spain. The last fortnight has seen the German Government in disarray: there is no certainty that Chancellor Kohl will win the elections which are due next year. The European Union is now uncomfortably close to being a social democratic zone.

In Britain, we can take some

comfort from the fact that our social democratic party is now Labour. Tony Blair has undoubtedly understood the nature of the competitive global economy, and has accepted the main themes of the Thatcher revolution,

though no one can forecast whether the Irish Labour Party will survive in office after the forthcoming election.

The only two countries where the socialist parties are not in office are Germany and Spain. The last fortnight has seen the German Government in disarray: there is no certainty that Chancellor Kohl will win the elections which are due next year. The European Union is now uncomfortably close to being a social democratic zone.

In Britain, we can take some

comfort from the fact that our social democratic party is now Labour. Tony Blair has undoubtedly understood the nature of the competitive global economy, and has accepted the main themes of the Thatcher revolution,

though no one can forecast whether the Irish Labour Party will survive in office after the forthcoming election.

The only two countries where the socialist parties are not in office are Germany and Spain. The last fortnight has seen the German Government in disarray: there is no certainty that Chancellor Kohl will win the elections which are due next year. The European Union is now uncomfortably close to being a social democratic zone.

In Britain, we can take some

comfort from the fact that our social democratic party is now Labour. Tony Blair has undoubtedly understood the nature of the competitive global economy, and has accepted the main themes of the Thatcher revolution,

though no one can forecast whether the Irish Labour Party will survive in office after the forthcoming election.

The only two countries where the socialist parties are not in office are Germany and Spain. The last fortnight has seen the German Government in disarray: there is no certainty that Chancellor Kohl will win the elections which are due next year. The European Union is now uncomfortably close to being a social democratic zone.

In Britain, we can take some

comfort from the fact that our social democratic party is now Labour. Tony Blair has undoubtedly understood the nature of the competitive global economy, and has accepted the main themes of the Thatcher revolution,

though no one can forecast whether the Irish Labour Party will survive in office after the forthcoming election.

The only two countries where the socialist parties are not in office are Germany and Spain. The last fortnight has seen the German Government in disarray: there is no certainty that Chancellor Kohl will win the elections which are due next year. The European Union is now uncomfortably close to being a social democratic zone.

In Britain, we can take some

comfort from the fact that our social democratic party is now Labour. Tony Blair has undoubtedly understood the nature of the competitive global economy, and has accepted the main themes of the Thatcher revolution,

though no one can forecast whether the Irish Labour Party will survive in office after the forthcoming election.

The only two countries where the socialist parties are not in office are Germany and Spain. The last fortnight has seen the German Government in disarray: there is no certainty that Chancellor Kohl will win the elections which are due next year. The European Union is now uncomfortably close to being a social democratic zone.

In Britain, we can take some

comfort from the fact that our social democratic party is now Labour. Tony Blair has undoubtedly understood the nature of the competitive global economy, and has accepted the main themes of the Thatcher revolution,

though no one can forecast whether the Irish Labour Party will survive in office after the forthcoming election.

The only two countries where the socialist parties are not in office are Germany and Spain. The last fortnight has seen the German Government in disarray: there is no certainty that Chancellor Kohl will win the elections which are due next year. The European Union is now uncomfortably



## THE CLARKE WAGON

Dorrell climbs on board: others poke spokes in the wheels

The first casualty of the Conservative leadership campaign came yesterday before blood could even be shed. Facing a humiliatingly low vote in next Tuesday's first ballot, Stephen Dorrell concluded that he would do better to withdraw now and throw his support behind Kenneth Clarke. Whether he can nudge his small band of supporters in the same direction remains to be seen.

The two men made much yesterday of the "new unity" that this action symbolised. All it actually represented was a unifying of the Left. Had Mr Clarke's prize new supporter been Peter Lilley, it would have been another matter. But, for the moment at least, the voting map does not need to be redrawn. All that has happened is that Mr Clarke may now win second preference votes in the first ballot that would otherwise have come to him the following week.

The Shadow Chancellor's stock, however, seems to be rising. In the country he is clearly the most popular potential leader. His personality is bigger and more rumbustious than those of his rivals. He is engagingly frank and has proved his combative nature in the Commons. He also possesses great resilience, a vital requirement for opposition.

In Parliament, now that he is the only candidate on the Left, Mr Clarke can be assured of support from his natural constituency. But there are some MPs in the centre and on the Right who are leaning towards him too. Some believe that he will be the most effective leader in Opposition, and that he will not have a chance to put his unsound views on Europe into action in Government. Others, of a generation that might just still be able to hold ministerial office, are prepared to put ideological differences aside in order to have a chance, any chance, of serving in Government again. They console themselves that events in France and Germany make EMU ever less likely; and

that, if monetary union does come about, it will be under the "fudged" criteria that Mr Clarke is prepared to oppose.

But what if EMU goes ahead and is judged by its supporters to be a success? What would Mr Clarke do in Opposition if the Government decided to join? Worse, what might he do in Government? These questions should be asked by all those who believe that the single currency is the most important matter for this Parliament and the next. Mr Clarke tried to play EMU down at his press conference yesterday, denying that it was critical either in this leadership election or for the next five years.

Disdain for the views of others is Mr Clarke's most dangerous weakness. He does not just disagree with the majority of his party; he wishes they did not exist. Yet the tide in the Tory party is running away from him. If he cannot reach an accommodation with the Right, he will never unite the party.

In this respect, his position resembles that of Denis Healey in 1980. Mr Healey, a moderate, would certainly have been a more electable leader of the Labour Party than Michael Foot. But he would have run truck with the views of the Left, which was then in the ascendant. It took 14 years for the tide in the party to run in Tony Blair's direction.

Indeed, if Mr Clarke were to lead the Conservative Party, he might well find himself to the left of Mr Blair on key issues. It looks as if the Prime Minister will be true to his word in introducing radical reforms to the welfare state, an institution that Mr Clarke defends as if the design of 1945 could not be improved upon. The Shadow Chancellor shows an inflexible attachment to ideas formed in the 1960s – especially on Europe – that he seems quite unwilling to reassess in the light of events. But then, had he been prepared to adjust his sights on Europe three years ago, he would be leader of the Conservative Party by now.

## BLAIR'S CHINESE BOX

The Prime Minister should go to Hong Kong – and speak out

For China, the reversion of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty at midnight on June 30 is an occasion for national celebration. It will also be an important international rite of passage for China, Britain and above all Hong Kong itself, witnessed by Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, and 4,000 other dignitaries as well as the world's press. China's most senior ministers have said that they want the atmosphere to be friendly, hinting at their hopes of a "fresh start" in Sino-British relations. A cordial relationship with China is equally in the interests both of Britain and of Hong Kong.

The Chinese would like Tony Blair to be there. So would Hong Kong's people. But Mr Blair's diary for the day remains blank. His final decision has been complicated by a late change of plan announced by Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's Chief Executive designate, which puts Britain in an extremely awkward position.

Up to midnight, the Hong Kong Government has laid on an uncontroversial programme of military parades, local entertainments and a banquet presided over by the Prince of Wales. Nor is there any problem with the formal handover ceremony at midnight. Mr Blair should not be swayed by the continuing uncertainty as to whether President Jiang Zemin will lead the Chinese delegation. Responsibilities take precedence over protocol.

The problem exercising Downing Street and the Foreign Office arises after the Prince of Wales and Chris Patten, the Governor, then leave and ministers, diplomats and guests move to a different hall for the final Chinese events. What was expected was the swearing in of Mr Tung, his Executive Council and senior judges and civil servants; but added to this will now be the official inauguration of the provisional legislature appointed to take over from the Legislative

Council elected in 1995, which China has decided to abolish.

Unless the plan is changed, British ministers cannot be present – as Robin Cook has already made clear. To stay would make them a party to legitimising a body which Britain maintains has no legal standing either under the 1984 Sino-British treaty or in China's Basic Law for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, both of which say that its legislature shall be elected. Since the United States has also condemned the dismantling of Hong Kong's elected legislature, Ms Albright is in the same position as Britain and will leave early.

This move reflects the lack of confidence that China has shown about Hong Kong since Tiananmen, remembered last night in Hong Kong by a 60,000-strong crowd. China has no need to make a point about sovereignty. If it is concerned to avoid a legal vacuum, the swearing-in of the Chief Executive suffices. To have pushed the provisional legislature into the limelight in this way is as unwise as it is unnecessary. China itself has promised early fresh elections to find a replacement, a tacit acceptance of the problem with its makeshift response to Hong Kong's electoral reforms.

Britain cannot stop the new administration from proceeding; but China cannot escape the awkward consequences. Wisdom lies in minimising the damage; were the Chinese to respond, for example, by boycotting the earlier events, the new Hong Kong will make a thoroughly inauspicious start. That is a matter for China. Mr Blair should go to Hong Kong but he should also do more. It is an occasion to speak out firmly about his belief in civil liberties, the rule of law and a credible, accountable legislature – the foundations of Hong Kong's success.

At this historic moment, the British Prime Minister should be both seen and heard.

## THE FINEST FISHERBIRD

The British cormorant escapes the European net

Thousands of years after the trick was first perfected, Asian fishermen still lean over the prows of their boats clutching strings knotted to the legs of cormorants. So efficient are these birds at catching fish that a well-stocked reservoir can be emptied in a few winter weeks by hungry flocks. Anglers see cormorants as the "vultures of the water" and are quick to pronounce anathemas on their competitors for the river's catch. Indeed, angling magazines are full of fishermen's tales not only of the ones that got away but of those snatched away in a flash of feathers. Only when the *Angling Times* declared in a headline that "These Birds Must be Killed", did the authorities step in. Almost all birds in Britain are legally protected, and the former editor has been charged with incitement to kill cormorants.

But celebrations by ornithologists have been soured by a decision in Brussels that anglers hope may yet open a chink in the legal armour protecting the cormorant. A scientific committee has decided that the continental cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* – whose numbers have soared from 5,000 in 1979 to more than 100,000 today – no longer needs the majesty of a European directive to keep it alive.

The special regime which enjoins governments to protect the bird's habitat is to be ended. *Carbo sinensis* is no longer a

fisherman with a clear stretch of water. Britain has long had its own cormorant option. Our island coastal cormorants, *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*, like the human species, are a breed apart and have evaded the net of legislation cast from Brussels. They will remain protected under national law, and Britain is free to prosecute all who would do them harm.

Anglers are a powerful lobby, with almost more clout than the combined bureaucracies of Brussels and Whitehall. They insist that our native cormorants are encroaching on inland waters as aggressively as a European functionary who has espied a new activity to regulate. Not a river or lake, reservoir or hatchery is now safe from their depredations. Politicians, they say, have tried to put clear, blue water between Britain and those who would control this island's environment; but clear, blue water for a cormorant is an invitation to a fine feast.

The guardians of the countryside, however, are not to be swayed. Britain has a fine record in protecting its wildlife in hedge-rows or in the air. Cormorants have been lured inland by anglers stocking lakes and rivers with more fish than nature would otherwise provide. Who can blame nature's finest fisherman, whose speed and grace outstrips the sedentary human, for taking advantage of this new abundance?

## Priorities for new Tory party leader

From Mr J. E. Hilliard

Sir, Last week's letter from seven former Conservative MPs (May 30) suggests that the prime duty of the Government is to get them or their successors back into the House.

In truth the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition has the infinitely more important task of marshalling in the most telling manner possible, arguments against the government measures perceived not to be in the national interest.

Fitness to fill that role should determine the choice of leader. There are, immediately and for the future, matters of greater weight than a general election in five years' time.

Yours truly,  
JOHN HILLIARD,  
90 Gales Drive,  
Three Bridges,  
Crawley, West Sussex.  
June 1.

From Mr Robert Rodwell

Sir, Sir Jim Lester and others do not seem to fully accept why they, and many other former Conservative Members of Parliament, lost their seats on May 1.

They were not voted out on economic issues. Britain's recent performance is excellent. They lost crucial traditional support because of the Conservative Party's failure to recognise the deep public disquiet over the EU's federalist ambitions.

It is no coincidence that three of the signatories – Peter Butler (Milton Keynes North East), Tim Rathbone (Levies) and Mark Robinson (Somerton and Frome) – lost their seats as a direct result of the intervention of the Referendum Party.

Those Conservatives who voted for their Referendum Party opponents would love to return to the fold but are unlikely to do so if the party elect a closet federalist as their leader and select like-minded people as their candidates for the next election.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT RODWELL  
(Referendum Party candidate,  
Somerton and Frome),  
Lanyatt Lodge,  
Nr Shepton Mallet, Somerset.  
June 1.

From Mr Phillip Oppenheim

Sir, Conservative disunity was a key reason for Labour's victory on May 1. Internal arguments obscured our growing economic success and prevented us from countering Labour's effective but spurious sound-bite policies.

That is a mistake we must not repeat. I recognise that people have strong views on Europe – I share many of them. But we must now look forward, not backward. The new Conservative leader must make his priority the issues which concern ordinary people – education, health, law and order and, above all, the economy.

All the available candidates for the leadership have excellent qualities. I have been fortunate enough to work as a minister for Michael Portillo and Ian Lang. But I also worked with Ken Clarke as a minister or his PPS over seven years and in four departments, so I have some idea of his qualities.

Apart from his credentials as one of the most consistent free-marketeers in the Conservative Party, Ken Clarke will be seen as the Chancellor who built solidly on achievements of his predecessors to deliver the best economic prospects for generations. Above all, he is a tough fighter who knows how to craft powerful but attractive messages to the people.

Those are qualities needed to rebuild the party. Clear blue water may be enticing and initially bracing, but it can get very cold – especially if there is no firm land to swim to.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILLIP OPPENHEIM  
(Conservative MP for  
Amber Valley, 1983-97),  
29 Redburn Street, SW3.  
June 3.

From Mr Stephen V. Straker

Sir, Would it be fair to assume that the seven former Tory MPs are in their particular position because they are supporters of Ken Clarke?

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN STRAKER,  
Cromden Lodge,  
Manor Road, Reigate, Surrey.  
June 2.

From the Reverend Anthony West

Sir, In spite of their enthusiasm for Kenneth Clarke as a prospective leader of the Conservative Party, I am afraid that Sir Jim Lester and others do not stand a chance of regaining seats in the House of Commons all the time we are to use split infinitives [...], to decisively move on [...].

In anticipating a new vicar's ascent of the pulpit steps a church warden said to him: "Ten minutes only and no split infinitives."

We have to get our priorities right.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY WEST,  
2 Abbots Walk,  
Cerne Abbas, Dorset.  
May 30.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number – 0171-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Incentives to leave the car at home

From the Editor of New European

Sir, I loved Simon Jenkins's article, "Tear up these roads to ruin" (May 30). The message is almost 40 years overdue but it is good to hear it spelt out loud and clear at last.

I believe there was some question in Brussels a few years ago about putting out a directive barring all cars over 20 years old from being driven on public roads. I tried to say then that if Brussels wanted to do something really good for a change, it would ban all cars under 20 years old.

Some sort of compromise has to be found, and I believe that encouraging people to think of their car as a mode of peripheral transport could help greatly. Public transport must be for normal use, and the car perceived as a special treat for special occasions.

Why not give a railcard with every annual car tax disc for the motorist and his family to ride on buses and trains at, say, half fare? That, combined with allowing the price of fuel to go through the roof (through taxation if necessary), should provide a pretty effective incentive for most of us to relax and let somebody else ferry us about.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN COLEMAN,  
Editor, New European,  
14 Carron Road, SW8.  
June 2.

From the Chief Executive of the Countryside Commission

Sir, Simon Jenkins highlights the national dilemma. We all want the next person to take the bus to reduce the congestion we suffer. We expect to do most of our shopping in supermarkets without stopping to consider how the corner shopkeeper will make the profits he needs to stay in business.

In rural areas exercising choice in education often means driving children to school. How many of us, in the countryside, take on new jobs or choose new homes with any expectation that we will not use the car between the two?

Politics are important in tackling this issue. But so is individual decision-taking. Good planning is a start in getting homes, shops, schools and workplaces well related. But it will deliver no benefit unless people take different decisions as a result.

Countryside Commission research

Social Charter 1961, article 6, and the International Labour Organisation Conventions No 87 of 1947 and No 98 of 1948.

Measures emanating from the European Commission have so far concentrated upon rights of consultation only. The new employment chapter will do well to introduce both rights to consult and a right to negotiate collectively where a majority of the employees in an employment unit vote for it.

There is no good reason for it to omit what have come to be called other "core labour rights", such as a ban on forced labour, a right to organise and support for collective bargaining.

That support is already required of member States by other international sources, such as the Council of Europe

It would be shameful if such an impressive collection were to close in order to make savings of £45,000 a year. We recognise that the university is facing budgetary cuts of 6 per cent over the next three years, but the gallery's director is confident that, given time, he could raise the necessary funds from other sources.

We hope the university will reconsider what appears to be a hastily-conceived plan, and will enter into consultations on the Hatton's long-term future.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID BARRETT,  
Director,  
National Art Collections Fund,  
7 Cromwell Place, SW7.  
June 4.

From Cherie Blair

From Mr Peter Hitchens

Sir, Not for the first time I am forced to rebut allegations about the Prime Minister's wife and me (article, "Why Cherie is not Hillary Clinton", May 28).

Our connection was brief, if intense. Researches which I conducted over a year ago attracted attention because I was not interested in Cherie Blair's hair, nor her taste in clothes, nor her smile, nor even the court cases in which she appears, but in her political opinions.

Since she has stood for Parliament, made public speeches and has openly

stated that she hopes to be a High Court judge, I thought and still think that my inquiries were legitimate. I also think that I showed rather more respect for her as an accomplished and independent woman than those who comment on her appearance or her shopping habits.

It is more than a year since I last wrote anything substantial about her. I am happy to be called persistent, but does this make me a "fanatic"?

Yours faithfully,  
PETER HITCHENS  
(Assistant Editor),  
*The Express*,  
245 Blackfriars Road, SE1.  
May 28.

stated that she hopes to be a High Court judge, I thought and still think that my inquiries were legitimate. I also think that I showed rather more respect for her as an accomplished and independent woman than those who comment on her appearance or her shopping habits.

It is more than a year since I last wrote anything substantial about her. I am happy to be called persistent, but does this make me a "fanatic"?

Yours faithfully,  
PETER HITCHENS  
(Assistant Editor),  
*The Express*,  
245 Blackfriars Road, SE1.  
May 28.

### Time for action to clean up world

From the Chairman of the UN Environment and Development UK Committee and others

Sir, June 5 is World Environment Day. Five years ago in Rio world leaders gathered to define a comprehensive action programme for protecting the world's environment and promoting more sustainable development. In two weeks' time they will be meeting again in New York to review progress.

Good things have happened on some topics in some parts of the world. Many local communities and local authorities throughout the world have been extremely active in improving their environments and making a reality of sustainable development. Some businesses have transformed their operations, reducing waste and pollution, providing a good example for what others could do. Some governments have begun to change their policies on energy, transport, agriculture, industry, housing and their fiscal structures.

But a tremendous



in charged  
murder

among four men charged of the RUC Constable Greg Antrim on Sunday. Leslie, part-time police reservist, and Ireland Secretary, yesterday down. Co Armagh, about one Dr Mowlam described the residents as "a sincere and understanding".

## dropped

id their evidence concerning the Orange Order to write in. Dr Mowlam described the residents as "a sincere and understanding".

## evidence probe

negotiations have begun as inquiry into the Orange Order to write in. Dr Mowlam described the residents as "a sincere and understanding".

## d again

er was brought from his son yesterday to Bow Street admitted criminal damage to his car. He was released on bail for recent events. Dr Mowlam described the residents as "a sincere and understanding".

## Premier

er to fit in the G's economic environment, summed America's 2250 900 the same prior and. Dr Mowlam described the residents as "a sincere and understanding".

## soccer threat

er's useful coverage after taking a hit for exclusive rights. Dr Mowlam described the residents as "a sincere and understanding".

## miscarriage

ers on the last three months of his life, according to his widow. Dr Mowlam described the residents as "a sincere and understanding".

## claim

er's useful coverage after taking a hit for exclusive rights. Dr Mowlam described the residents as "a sincere and understanding".

## out of court

er's useful coverage after taking a hit for exclusive rights. Dr Mowlam described the residents as "a sincere and understanding".

## or GCHQ

er's useful coverage after taking a hit for exclusive rights. Dr Mowlam described the residents as "a sincere and understanding".

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 5 1997

## OBITUARIES

## DONALD FURNISS

Donald Furniss, DSO, DFC, stockbroker and wartime Spitfire reconnaissance pilot, died on May 9 aged 85. He was born on May 7, 1912.

**D**onald Furniss was one of the select band of Spitfire pilots who flew reconnaissance missions from Russian airfields in search of German warships in the Norwegian fjords and the Arctic ocean in 1943 and 1944. The principal target of these flights was the powerful battleship *Tirpitz* whose presence in northern Norway presented a menace of the very first order to British convoys carrying war material for the Red Army to the Barents Sea ports of Archangel and Murmansk. The mere rumour that she was at sea with her escorts had given rise to the tragic order to scatter to the convoy PQ17, in the summer of 1942 with such catastrophic results.

To be able to report, at any moment, the whereabouts of this powerful threat was the task of Furniss and the flyers of his special photo reconnaissance unit. It was a task rendered the more difficult by the necessity of operating from a Russian airfield where, though the spirit of the Soviet ally might be willing (and it was not always that), the maintenance facilities were weak.

The weather, too, was generally a matter of zero visibility and high winds over the Norwegian mountains, and without special navigational aids, to make a sighting and return to base without running out of fuel was something of a miracle in itself.

Nevertheless, Furniss and the aircraft of his detachment stuck to it during the spring of 1944, and it was their information that enabled first the Fleet Air Arm and then the RAF to attack *Tirpitz* in Alten Fjord later in the year, the latter attack damaging her so severely that she was eventually moved south to Tromsö for repairs. It was there that the Lancasters of Nos 9 and 617 Squadrons, flying from Lossiemouth, administered the coup de grâce to her in November 1944.

Donald Furniss was born in Tanta, Egypt, where his father was at that time teaching there. He went to work for the Bank of Egypt. The family subsequently moved to Khartoum. Furniss spent his childhood years roaming the desert wastes. He was sent back to prep school in England and then on to Radley from where he joined the Stock Exchange.

When war broke out in 1939 he applied to enter the RAF but while waiting for call-up joined a volunteer force which was sent to train with the Chasseurs Alpins at Chamonix in the



French Alps before returning to Scotland. The purpose of the force was to fight in Finland's Winter War against the Russians, who had invaded the country in overwhelming strength in November 1939. But, after heroic resistance, the Finns had been forced to capitulate by early March 1940 before outside help could arrive, and Furniss's unit never embarked from its Scottish base.

Once he had done his basic flying training and gained his pilot's wings Furniss was posted to the Photo Reconnaissance Unit which operated six flights of special Spitfires. These had the guns taken out to reduce their weight, had extra fuel tanks installed to

increase their range to 1,700 miles and level as high as they could below the level at which a condensation trail would have formed (generally between 25,000 and 30,000 feet), thus betraying them to the enemy's interceptor fighters.

Furniss was initially posted to RAF St Eval in Cornwall, from where the Spitfires of the PRU's F Flight ranged down the French coast as far as the Spanish frontier, photographing the locations of German naval units in Brest, Nantes, Bordeaux and other ports. For his work as a flight commander he was awarded his DFC in 1942.

Next, after a period on the staff at the

## THE VEN BAZIL MARSH

The Ven Basil Marsh, Archdeacon of Northampton, 1964-91, died on May 23 aged 75. He was born in Canada, on August 11, 1921.

AT THE time of his retirement, Basil Marsh was the longest-serving archdeacon within the Church of England. Combining his archdeaconry with the Northampton city rector of St Peter's, Mafareif, he was essentially a pastoral priest.

A son, Basil Roland Marsh was born in a small town in Alberta, Canada, and brought up on the prairies of North Dakota during the worst days of the dust storms and the Depression.

He lost both his parents by the age of eight and first arrived in England, where he went to state schools in Swindon, when he was already ten years old.

From Leeds University, where he took a second-class degree in history, he went on to train for the ministry with the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield in Yorkshire, being ordained deacon by the rector of St Peter's, Mafareif, in 1944.

He served his title as curate of Cheshunt and then held two further curacies at Coventry and Reading before in 1950 leaving the United Kingdom to take charge of a far-flung parish in Queensland, Australia. The five years he spent there — in which he also

served as a chaplain to the Royal Australian Air Force — had a considerable influence on the rest of his life, imbuing him with a "can do" spirit, not always readily identifiable with the Anglicanism of, say, Barbara Pym or John Betjeman.

Returning home in 1956, he first forged his association with the Peterborough diocese by becoming vicar of St Mary the Virgin, Northampton. This was a busy, urban parish in whose streets in his black woolen cloak — worn partly to keep out the cold but also as a symbol of pastoral care — he soon became a familiar figure.

It was still, however, something of a surprise when in 1964 — at the age of 43 — he

Basil Marsh made a point of getting to know all the parishes, churches and clergy that

Group HQ at RAF Benson, Oxfordshire. Furniss was given command of S42 Squadron. For six months from July 1943 he led it on reconnaissance flights which might take in the locating of the construction works for V1 launch sites in the Pas de Calais or the photographing of the current dispositions of the flak batteries defending targets in the Ruhr.

When the photographing of *Tirpitz* became a necessity, it was recognised that the PRU's Spitfires would have to operate from a Russian airfield, since Alten Fjord, where the battleship lurked, was out of range of aircraft flying from Scottish bases. But the flight to Vaenga, not far from Murmansk, was fraught with hazard, since the reconnaissance Spitfires carried no special navigational aids. Furniss's plane ran out of fuel before he found the Vaenga airfield, and he was forced to come down on a primitive strip in a forest clearing.

He had no idea which side of the Russo-German battlefield he was on, and the Russian soldiers who surrounded his plane did not know who he was, either. So they dragged him from his plane and locked him up. When they realised their mistake he was given dinner by the base commanding officer and treated to innumerable and lengthy toasts to Stalin and Churchill washed down by gallons of vodka.

Having understood none of the proceedings and having no Russian, Furniss, when his time came to reply to the toasts, stood up and recited Lewis Carroll's *Jabberwocky* with dramatic emphasis. His rendition was received with great enthusiasm by the Russians, who drank more vodka in his honour with much smashing of glass.

Furniss was awarded the DSO in 1944 for his leadership during this phase of the PRU's operations. Returning to Britain, he finished the war as a squadron leader.

After the war Furniss returned to the City, working first in partnership with a friend and later, after a series of mergers, as a partner of Quiller Hilton Goodison. As House Partner, he was responsible for all the firm's trading. He retired in 1976.

In acknowledgement of his war service, Furniss was to have been presented by the Russian Government with a medal commemorating 50 years of peace. The medal will now be sent to his widow.

In 1944, Furniss had married Jill Cresswell, the widow of one of his friends, George Cresswell, who had been killed while serving in mine-sweepers. She survives him with a daughter.

## CHRISTOPHER GRIER

Christopher Grier, music critic, died in Winchester on May 7 aged 74. He was born in Derby on December 4, 1922.

SCOTLAND has sustained few full-time music critics, and Christopher Grier, who wrote for *The Scotsman* from 1949 until 1965, was one of the first of them. His predecessors on that paper included a Mr Daly, who took his dog to concerts as well as to the editorial department, and Stewart Dean — a pupil of Tovey, Saal and Weingartner — who left after four years to become Professor of Music at Sheffield University.

But Grier, from the moment he wrote his first elegant review at the age of 27, marked a turning point in Scottish newspaper music criticism. He brought dedication to his task, making clear that, whatever Scotland's priorities after the war, music was something that mattered.

Born in Derby and educated at Gilmour, he studied music at King's College, Cambridge, and spent two years as the British Council's music officer in Scandinavia before joining *The Scotsman*. At that time the Edinburgh Festival was still a novelty. The old Scottish Orchestra had yet to be formed into the postwar performance of Mahler's *Second Symphony* and Aix's rise of Teresa Berganza as a Mozart and Scottish Opera did not exist.

In this mostly infertile soil, Grier managed to find material for a courteous and witty chronicle of Scotland's musical life. Under two enlightened editors, Murray Watson and Alastair Dunn, he was given enviable space and scope to nurture the good things and deal patiently with the many minor events a newspaper today would shun. He recognised that the Edinburgh Festival had blown a great gust of fresh air into Edinburgh provincialism, yet he was not uncritical of international achievement. When Glyndebourne's pioneering postwar production of Verdi's *La forza del destino* opened at the King's Theatre, his review began with the words "Maledizione, maledizione".

His breadth of experience helped to bring both authority and sophistication to his reviews. Those were the days when newspaper critics could distinguish themselves from such distasteful chores as hard news, scoops, previews and interviews. Reviews were what mattered, written with fax deadlines — Grier could eat supper in the staff canteen before lighting his pipe, settling down at his typewriter, and then, having produced his 600 words, waiting until after 6am in the morning to read a leisurely proof.

But when he left Edinburgh in 1963 — ironically just after the birth of Scottish Opera and just before the SNO's first wave of international success — to seek a new life in London, times were already changing. Although he wrote polished programme notes for concerts, it is sad that he never produced a book. He is survived by his wife Elisabeth and their son.



Views when real music criticism in Scotland was still in its infancy. Each summer he received a budget to tour the European festivals — another example of Scotsman enlightenment — enabling him to bring back the good news from Holland (a rare postwar performance of Mahler's *Second Symphony* and Aix's rise of Teresa Berganza as a Mozart and Scottish Opera did not exist).

Those were the days when newspaper critics could distinguish themselves from such distasteful chores as hard news, scoops, previews and interviews. Reviews were what mattered, written with fax deadlines — Grier could eat supper in the staff canteen before lighting his pipe, settling down at his typewriter, and then, having produced his 600 words, waiting until after 6am in the morning to read a leisurely proof.

But when he left Edinburgh in 1963 — ironically just after the birth of Scottish Opera and just before the SNO's first wave of international success — to seek a new life in London, times were already changing. Although he wrote polished programme notes for concerts, it is sad that he never produced a book. He is survived by his wife Elisabeth and their son.

## DR ALAN McGlashan

Dr Alan Fleming McGlashan, MC, psychiatrist and writer, died on May 6, aged 98.

He was born on October 20, 1898.



AS HE had hoped, Alan McGlashan was still seeing patients until a week before his death. Approaching his 99th birthday permitted him the luxury, he felt, of having only a small number, but this delightedly commented, had raised the level of his work, due to the now timeless quality of his interviews. It was a quality that played an important role in his therapeutic work. He had hoped to write about this "speculative thought", as he called it, but the loss of his sight left this project unfinished.

McGlashan's family was Scottish, but his childhood was mostly spent in England, where his father had set up in general practice. From Epsom College, he won an exhibition to Cambridge, which was deferred when he enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps in 1917. After an engineering course at Oxford and a few weeks in the air, he was sent to France, where for 11 months he flew reconnaissance missions over enemy lines, occasionally being sent in to draw off enemy fire from British manned balloons. For these feats he was awarded the MC and Croix de Guerre with Palms. His love of flying was to continue: he took up gliding — holding Licence No 28 — and later delighted in ballooning.

After the war, he took his family to the Mediterranean, where he was a captain of tennis. It was during these years that he would take off to walk alone on the Isle of Skye, and a number of poems in his first published book, *George and the Dragon*, reflect this love of the island.

He became a second-string drama critic on *The Observer* and the *News Chronicle*, having completed the reading, he claimed, of every play published in English, but after qualifying joined a tramp-steamer as ship's surgeon on a sometimes hair-raising voyage to the Far East.

Back in England he joined the practice of his ebullient but wise father, who enabled his son to devote part of each day to what was of primary importance to him, his writing and his study of literature. Some five years later, now married to Robin Cameron-Smith, he found that his bent was for psychiatry, not general practice.

He married in 1946 Audrey Oyler. She survives him, together with three sons and a daughter.

He is survived by his second wife, Sasha, whom he married in 1979.

World War, he was consultant psychiatrist to several of the panels used by the War Office to pick officers, and began his own analytic work, which continued for 58 years.

The seriousness of his work, however, was rooted in a harmonious and happy nature. He believed in delight as the key to living. "Delight is a mystery," he wrote. "And the mystery is this: to plunge boldly into the brilliance and immediacy of living, at the same time as utterly surrendering to that which lies beyond space and time; to see life translucently."

His writing developed from studies in classical Greek and English literature, philosophy, mythology and religion. Thinking, he believed, "should always be guided by feeling, which is a way of recalling the basic wisdom covered up by civilization". Of *The Savage and Beautiful Country*, which argues the need to integrate separate parts of our being, Laurent van der Post wrote: "He utters profound and complicated thought in a simple and accessible way, equipped with the sensitivity and sensibilities natural only to the artist."

Escaping what William Law called "the vanity of Time" was crucial to McGlashan's thought and his therapeutic work. "I incline to think people are like pieces of music," he wrote in a letter. "If we understand the tune, we would know why it would end when it does."

He is survived by his second wife, Sasha, whom he married in 1979.

He was born in 1898, died on May 6, 1997.

## YOUTH FOR THE AGED.

PROFESSOR VERNONOFF'S EXPERIMENTS.

(BY OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT)

Professor Vernonoff, surgeon to the Russian Hospital in Paris, whose experiments in treating thyroid deficiency in children by grafting the thyroid gland from apes have attracted much attention, has made further experiments to counteract the natural advance of old age.

He has long been a suggestion that a body known as the "interstitial substance" is responsible for the maintenance of that vigour and strength which we associate with youth. Professor Vernonoff has carried out some experiments on animals and claims that by grafts of interstitial substance he has restored youth to creatures in various stages of old age. He has now made similar grafts from apes to old persons who consider themselves fit for the experiments. The grafts have taken, but as only one month has elapsed it is not clear whether the end result of the operation — restoration of the phenomena of youth — will occur.

Faced by several cases of thyroid deficiency in children — which cases had not made great progress in thyroid administration by mouth — Professor Vernonoff conceived the idea of attempting to graft a portion of the gland of one of the higher apes. He was led to this by consideration of the fact, as stated by him to the Academic de Medicine that "the blood of man and of the red ape is identical both from the point of view of its chemical reactions and of the character of the red and white corpuscles".

A boy of 14 was operated on. At the age of eight he had developed signs of thyroid insufficiency following scarlet fever. His development, mental and physical, was arrested, and both his parents and teachers had remarked on the change in his

## ON THIS DAY

June 5, 1924

1924

1924

1924

1924

1924

1924

1924

1924

1924

## THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY JUNE 5 1997

## NEWS

## Dorrell quits Tory leadership race

■ Kenneth Clarke's campaign for the Conservative leadership gained momentum when Stephen Dorrell pulled out of the race and threw his backing behind the former Chancellor.

Mr Dorrell described Mr Clarke as "the biggest hitter of this political generation" and the "outstanding figure at the centre of contemporary British politics", and said that they were joining forces to win the battle of ideas against the Labour Government.

Pages 1, 11

## Work councils may be compulsory

■ British companies could be punished for failing to consult workers before decisions affecting their jobs, the European Commission proposed. Downing Street responded last night that the Prime Minister had strong misgivings about the plan.

Page 1

## Mother at 54

A woman aged 54 has become Britain's oldest test tube mother by giving birth to twins after being implanted with eggs from a younger donor.

Page 1

## Editor in court

A former editor of the *Angling Times*, Britain's best-selling fishing newspaper, is to appear in court on two charges of incitement to kill cormorants.

Page 12

## Honours changes

Tony Blair is planning a fundamental shake up of the honours system to give it more independence from the office of Prime Minister.

Page 1

## Aitken libel case

The former Tory Cabinet minister Jonathan Aitken's reputation was "butchered" by baseless allegations involving the supply of prostitutes to Arab businessmen and illegal arms sales to Iran, the High Court was told.

Page 3

## Tables turned

An interior designer spoke of her relief after being cleared of trying to cheat Sotheby's over a pair of antique tables.

Page 5

## Housewife's choice

A woman who fought to allow women to drink at the bar of El Vino's and called on fathers to do their share of housework is to be specialist adviser on women's issues to Harriet Harman.

Page 6

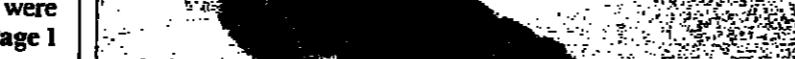
## Youthful triumph

Youth prevailed on *University Challenge* as the record-breaking mature students of the Open University were defeated in the final by the Young Turks of Magdalen College, Oxford.

Page 9

## Anne Michaels wins top fiction prize

■ The £30,000 women-only Orange Prize, Britain's largest prize for a single work of fiction, was won by the Canadian writer Anne Michaels, for her novel *Fugitive Pieces*, praised in *The Times* as a novel "of unusual and compelling power". Michaels's work was chosen from 131 entries, 11 of which were called in by the judges.



Worshippers crossing the sands to Holy Island, Northumberland, to commemorate the 1,400th anniversary of the death of St Columba

## BUSINESS

**Welfare job:** Sir Peter Davis, the head of the Prudential insurance company, is to head the task force overseeing Labour's welfare-to-work jobs programme.

Page 52

**White House row:** Feminist and women's groups long silent over the Paula Jones suit against President Clinton, condemned the White House for threatening to explore her sexual history.

Page 15

**Kohl survives:** Helmut Kohl's Government narrowly escaped disaster when Theo Waigel, the embattled Finance Minister, survived a hotly debated no-confidence motion by a margin of 17 votes.

Page 16

**Eurolighter 'safe':** The German Defence Minister tried to reassure Britain that his country remains committed to the £4 billion Eurofighter aircraft project.

Page 17

**Algerian election:** Algerians go to the polls today seeking a way out of a civil war that has claimed an estimated 60,000 lives in five years and cast a pall of fear and tension across the country.

Page 19

**Motorists:** The FT-SE 100 fell 0.7 to 4571. Sterling fell from 100.09 to 99.46 after falls from \$1.6362 to \$1.6284 and from DM2.8244 to DM2.8158.

Page 30

## SPORT

**Cricket:** As the Test series against Australia starts, there is a sharp enough sense of change to make the notion of England winning less of a fancy than usual.

Page 52

**Rugby union:** The British Isles scored ten tries in demolishing Mpumalanga 64-14 to maintain their unbeaten record in the tour of South Africa.

Page 50

**Football:** The Stade de Gerland in Lyons will now always be remembered as the venue for the remarkable goal from a free kick by Roberto Carlos for Brazil against France.

Page 46

**Tennis:** Sergi Bruguera, the last seed in the men's singles, reached the semi-finals of the French Open where he will meet Patrick Rafter, of Australia.

Page 47

## ARTS

**In his element:** Bruce Willis takes the foolishness of *The Fifth Element* in his stride, but the rest of the cast flounder embarrassingly in Luc Besson's \$90 million sci-fi epic.

Page 37

**Roger, wills:** The smash British film hit of the Fifties, *The Dam Busters*, with Michael Redgrave as Barnes Wallis, is out on video this week.

Page 38

**Voodoo woman:** For more than 30 years Maria Bethania has been the undisputed queen of Brazilian music. Now she is bringing her talents to London.

Page 39

**Stand up:** An inordinate amount of drinking accompanied this year's annual invasion of comedians to the Kilkenny Festival, not to everyone's delight.

Page 39

## FEATURES

**Safe steroids:** The fear of steroids is no longer justified as other drugs are now available says Dr Thomas Stuttaford.

Page 20

**Prized stories:** Why did the prize-winning author of *The Shipping News* not publish a novel until she was 56? E. Annie Proulx talks to Jason Cowley.

Page 21

**Future past:** Eva Figes, one of the Berlin-born Jews driven out by the Nazis, takes up an invitation from the city to return for a short stay and confronts ghosts.

Page 21

## TELEVISION

**Preview:** The police take on joyriders in *Crime Beat* (BBC1, 8pm). **Review:** Joe Joseph on health scares.

Pages 50, 51

## OPINION

## The Clarke wagon

Disdain for the views of others is Mr Clarke's most dangerous weakness. He does not just disagree with the majority of his party; he wishes they did not exist. Yet the tide in the Tory party is running away from him.

Page 23

## Blair's Chinese box

Mr Blair should go to Hong Kong but he should also do more. It is an occasion to speak out firmly his belief in civil liberties, the rule of law and a credible, accountable legislature.

Page 23

## The finest fisherbird

Who can blame nature's finest fishermen for taking advantage of this new abundance?

Page 23

## COLUMNS

## WILLIAM REES-MOGG

When a society turns to socialism, it means that it has gone on the defensive; the producer no longer equates competition with opportunity, but with danger.

Page 22

## DAVID HART

The only sensible measure is rational of budget to war-fighting capability. In other words, a measure of how much bang we actually get for our buck.

Page 22

## PETER RIDDELL

The sensible decision by Stephen Dorrell to stand down will matter more in terms of headlines than in affecting MPs' votes.

Page 11

## JOHN BRYANT

The camera can be the cruellest critic. Just ask the promoters of the show down between Donovan Bailey and Michael Johnson. They know that all the clever camera angles in the world, all the fancy hype and editing, cannot fake the drama of a genuine contest.

Page 44

## BOOKS

## Wilderness days

Russell Ceyn

Jones

reviews

Jim

Crace's

novel

of

Christ's

temptation;

Orlando

Figes

looks

at

the

lost

hopes

of

Eric

Hobsbawm;

Peter

Stothard

on

the

passions

of

the

ancient

Greeks

Pages

40, 41

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100

# THE TIMES



INSIDE SECTION  
2  
TODAY



## ARTS

The Brazilian diva  
about to  
storm Drury Lane  
PAGES 37-39



## TRAVEL

Where to go green  
on holiday  
in the Caribbean  
PAGES 42, 43



## SPORT

Attack proves best  
means of defence  
for rampant Lions  
PAGES 44-52

TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
PAGES  
50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY JUNE 5 1997



Sir Peter Davis, starring here in the Pru's TV advertisement, will head the group charged with sheltering the jobless in work and training schemes

## Pru chief to captain welfare-to-work team

BY PHILLIP BASSETT AND MARIANNE CURPHEY

**SIR** Peter Davis, the £612,000-a-year chairman of Prudential Corporation, the insurance group, is to head the task force overseeing Labour's welfare-to-work programme.

He becomes the latest business leader to take a Government post, joining Lord Simons, formerly of BP, Barclays Bank's Martin Taylor and Alan Sugar of Tottenham Hotspur and Amstrand.

The appointment comes as it emerged that Prudential is to spend millions of pounds toughening up proficiency tests for all 5,500 direct sales staff after its training and compliance standards were

criticised by the chief City watchdog. Ministers are particularly pleased to have won the involvement of Sir Peter, which is seen in Whitehall as a coup for David Blunkett, the Employment and Education Secretary. Addressing trade union leaders yesterday, Mr Blunkett called for a new unionism to match the new Government.

Speaking in Brighton to the annual conference of the GMB general union, he said that the new deal programmes "must not be a pale imitation of the make-work schemes of the past" but must instead be "high quality" programmes that would give young people

the opportunity to "learn as well as earn". Sir Peter will report to the Cabinet sub-committee on welfare-to-work, headed by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and will work closely with Mr Blunkett and Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister. The Government aims to offer private sector jobs to 250,000 young unemployed, to be boosted by a £60-a-week subsidy for each of them, or full-time training, or work on the planned environmental task force.

Sir Peter, who received a £1.25 million pay-off when ousted as chief executive of Reed Elsevier, was paid a

basic salary of £425,000 by Prudential last year. Bonus and benefits made that £612,000, or about £250 an hour. Prudential admitted yesterday that it has been ordered by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) to retest its entire direct sales force after an inspection this year. The cost of re-testing comes on top of the £1 million a week the insurer currently spends on training. The new tests have to be completed by September.

The inspection was carried out by the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) on behalf of the SIB. Other companies have been inspected and the PIA said it "would

not hesitate" to take similar action against other offenders.

Prudential was also asked by SIB to defend its use of the Prudential Savings Account to non-taxpaying customers. SIB suggested other products, such as National Savings schemes and tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas), which would have been more suitable for these clients. This is because such policies suffer from the underlying taxation on the company's life fund.

However, Prudential is unable to sell either product and would therefore have gained no commission from the sale.

Commentary, page 29

## Davies tells of EMU risks

BY ROBERT MILLER AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

**HOWARD DAVIES**, the deputy governor of the Bank of England and soon to be head of a beefed-up statutory Securities and Investments Board (SIB), said City firms risked heavy losses if they made the wrong assumptions over the future of monetary union.

He called on them to "undertake rigorous stress testing of their portfolios" to ensure they were not dangerously exposed.

In the past 18 months, he said, bond traders had increasingly based deals on calculations involving the convergence criteria for monetary union. Now, with doubts over the feasibility of EMU, banks should reassess their positions in the market, ensuring the adequacy of their risk control systems.

Sterling endured a rocky ride

on the foreign exchanges yes-

## Fresh boost for British business

THE Government yesterday launched a range of initiatives to boost the competitiveness of British business (Philip Bassett writes).

But in her first major speech as President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett rejected the creation of a single regulator on competition issues through the merger of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Office of Fair Trading. Mrs Beckett said the main consideration in merger cases would be solely competition grounds.

She announced a series of wide-ranging reviews — of the DTI's overall spending, of the incentives provided for small firms, of regulations covering companies' activities, of the promotion of exports and of lifting the broadband restrictions on BT. Beckett's stall, page 28

## EU threat to war on insiders

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE Stock Exchange gave a warning that the fight against insider dealing could suffer a severe setback if a proposed European Directive on the random taping of telephone calls is introduced.

Gavin Casey, chief executive of the Stock Exchange, backed by the Bank of England and the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog, said random telephone surveillance would no longer be effective as a way of catching rule breakers if Article 5 is passed by the European Parliament. This law would state that no telephone conversation could be taped unless both parties to the conversation had consented.

Mr Casey said: "The taping of dealers' conversations is an established and important contribution to investor protection. Any move to restrict this practice would undermine the monitoring of the markets and would run counter to the fundamental principle of strengthening City regulation."

The British Bankers' Association said: "Our members already support systems that encourage transparency in both terms of actual trades and the circumstances under which they are conducted. We believe these are strong controls which provide a good audit trail."

Final negotiations are being conducted through the European Council of Ministers and British concerns are being channelled through the Department of Trade and Industry.

## Stigwood and Moran plan joint venture

BY JASON NISSE

**ROBERT STIGWOOD**, the producer of the *Saturday Night Fever*, *Grease* and *Evita* films, is joining forces with Christopher Moran, the controversial tycoon who was expelled from Lloyd's of London in 1982, to develop interests in the world of television, theatre and entertainment.

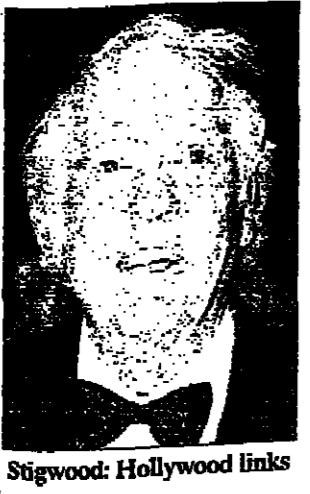
The two — who have been friends for 30 years — are currently working on plans to marry Mr Moran's £150 million fortune with Mr Stigwood's connections in Hollywood and the West End theatre. They hope the business will be a reprise of the Robert Stigwood Organisation, the company run by Mr Stigwood and backed by Mr Moran, which was sold to Polygram in the late 1970s.

Their venture, the stock market-listed Galaxy Media Corporation, will include a television production company run by Mike Mansfield, famous in the 1970s for *Supersonic*, his pop music show. He is currently producing children's shows, including *Tits & Tails*, *Funky Bunker* and *Bonkers*. Galaxy also manages a string of celebrities, including Shirley Bassey and Michael Parkinson, and owns the TV rights to *Billy Bunter*.

Mr Stigwood, 63, who launched the careers of Lord Lloyd-Webber, John Travolta and the Bee Gees, will become chairman of Galaxy, with Mr Moran as deputy chairman. "We are going to develop Galaxy as a broadly-based media

and rights-owning group, producing TV shows, films and events," Mr Moran said.

Mr Moran, 49, was one of the most flamboyant underwriters at Lloyd's before being banned in 1982. He is spending £150 million to renovate Crosby Hall in Chelsea, the 15th-century former home of Sir Thomas More and Richard III. As part of a deal with English Heritage to gain planning permission, the house will be opened to the public to display Mr Moran's art collection, which includes works by Van Dyck, Gainsborough and Reynolds. Mr Moran said that Crosby Hall would be placed in a charitable trust and left to the nation when he dies.



Stigwood: Hollywood links

## Mirror plans vehicle to provide cable TV packages

BY ERIC REGGELY

**MIRROR GROUP** is in talks

to launch a company that would provide TV programming packages to the cable companies in competition with those offered by BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster.

The company, known internally as the Programme Company, would also endeavor to create a brand that is clearly identified with cable TV and provide marketing services.

Mirror Group, owner of *The Mirror* newspaper and the Live TV cable channels, is in talks with Flextech, the second largest cable and satellite programmer, about joining Programme Co. Flextech recently formed a joint venture with BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of the BBC, to create a family of BBC-themed subscription channels.

Mirror hopes the BBC-Flextech channels will form the core of Programme Co's offering. Money would be raised to buy the rights to other programming and *The Mirror* would be used to help promote the products.

David Montgomery, chief executive of Mirror Group, confirmed that the concept is being discussed but declined to offer details.

Flextech, whose channels include UK Gold and UK Living, would say only that it is open to any deal that would see the maximum value extracted from its new channels.

Adam Singer, Flextech's chairman, said: "We would be interested in any proposal that would increase the cable subscriber population."

The support of Cable and Wireless Communications (CWC), the largest cable com-

pany, is crucial to Mirror's plans. CWC was formed in April from the £4.5 billion merger of Mercury Communications and the Nynex, Bell CableMedia and Videotron cable companies, which is 53 per cent owned by C&W and has more than 800,000 cable-TV customers.

The Mirror would like CWC and TeleWest Communications, the second largest cable company, to become equity partners in Programme Co.

TeleWest would not comment, but it is not thought to be interested. CWC would not comment other than to say it is examining a number of proposals. Currently, CWC and the rest of the cable industry derive the bulk of their TV output from BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

Programming executives who have talked to Graham Wallace, chief executive of CWC, said he would only consider deals that would give CWC branding control over the programming and marketing of any new channel packages. CWC is dropping the Mercury name and is planning an extensive marketing campaign to promote the C&W brand.

One of the unknown factors is Programme Co's ability to provide customer service to cable-TV customers. The cable industry's poor customer service record has been cited as one of the main reasons for low take-up rates: only about one in five homes passed by cable takes the service.

Time for action, page 31

BUSINESS TODAY

## STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4557.1	(-0.7)
FTSE All share	2747.56	(-0.08)
Nikkei	2061.56	(-0.45)
New York	7304.06	(-0.15)
S&P Composite	843.89	(-1.60)

## US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	6.05%	(6.05%)
Yield	6.85%	(6.85%)

## LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	5.75%	(5.75%)
12-month gil	112.5	(112.5)

## STERLING

New York	1.6275*	(1.6248)
London	1.6285	(1.6261)
DM	2.8162	(2.8240)
FF	9.4965	(9.5271)
SF	2.3524	(2.3496)
Yen	185.46	(190.23)
E Index	99.5	(100.0)

## DOLLAR

London	1.7255*	(1.7270)
DM	2.8162	(2.8240)
FF	1.4475*	(1.4370)
Yen	116.22	(116.03)
S Index	103.0	(102.9)

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$18.95	(\$19.05)
--------------------	---------	-----------

## GOLD

London close	\$341.56	(\$342.95)
--------------	----------	------------

\* denotes midday trading price

## Sparks flying

Southern Electric risked angering the Government by promising fresh shareholder returns soon after it had paid the windfall tax. Southern is the only independent regional electricity company. Page 28



**S**ir Peter Davis may prove to be the ideal choice to head the Government's Welfare to Work programme. He has an unusual spread of business experience, some original ideas and a fair amount of leverage among the company chiefs who will have to be prevailed upon to support the scheme if it is to have any chance of success.

Unfortunately, Sir Peter has a bit of an image problem. The man who took the rash decision to appear on television in the guise of a guardian angel actually stands accused of heading an organisation that continues to sell people products they do not need. This, of course, would have been perfectly acceptable if Sir Peter were still at Sainsbury's, where he once earned a living helping to promote extensively grated carrots and other non-essentials. It is not considered acceptable when the products are financial services.

As the scandal over the mis-selling of personal pensions has raged on, the line from the Pru has been that the chief executive could not be held responsible for the company's failure on that score. The career of the pugilistic Mick Newmarch was burned on that pyre.

But Sir Peter can no longer be allowed exemption from blame. He has been in charge while the Pru has been guilty of failing to deal with righting the wrongs of mis-selling. The company was high up the list of offenders as far

as Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary, was concerned as she told the industry to move speedily to compensate victims.

And now it seems that the mis-selling has not ceased. Its regulator, the Savings & Investments Board, is far from happy with the way that the country's biggest insurance and pensions company is drumming up business. So upset was SIB, on seeing how products it deemed unsuitable were being sold to clients, that it has demanded the entire direct sales force of the Pru be tested again to establish whether individuals are qualified to take money from a naive public.

Retraining and retesting will prove awkward and expensive for the Pru. The news that it is necessary could be even more damaging for the company. For perhaps the SIB is being charitable in suggesting that what was needed was better training.

It is just possible that at least some of the sales force were perfectly well trained, but still had difficulty in coming to terms with telling a potential client that he would be better off putting his money in National Savings than with the Pru. After all, a nagging voice in the salesman's pocket may have whispered: "National

Savings do not pay my commission." Until Sir Peter and his board have brought their sales force under control, perhaps they should concentrate on looking after the welfare of savers and let others run the Welfare to Work scheme. The Pru might even be able to provide work for some of the unemployed that the Government wants to help. In the short term, they could help to fill out cheques for all those who are still waiting for their compensation.

**Davies sounds an early warning**

**H**OWARD DAVIES has sounded a timely warning to City dealers in some of the more exotic derivative instruments.

There is already mounting concern among those responsible for the standing of London as the foremost global financial centre that traders have for some time

## COMMENTARY by our City Editor

worked on the assumption that European currency convergence of some sort would take place in January 1999 and they have placed their bets (oops sorry) executed their hedging strategies already.

If EMU does not now take place or evolves in a different form, softer in every sense, then banks and their security arms could face massive losses. Add to that volatile mixture the fact that many "stress" testing programmes used by banks are not robust enough and you can understand Mr Davies' concern.

What is clearly needed now, and what the Deputy Governor had in mind, is a concerted effort by all concerned to work together to ensure some sort of uniform risk assessment models. Rocket science is all very well but what the Bank, and subsequently Super-SIB need is a practical and sensible early warning system on a potential crisis. What might

seem like a little local difficulty in one bank's trading book could easily enough lead to a systemic failure. That would do London no good.

Without being too alarmist, Mr Davies seems to be echoing what the impressively energetic Helen Liddell will be outlining today. That is that City regulation, and that most certainly means risk control, will only be more effective if all parties concerned work together. This can be achieved by the industry seconding staff to various watchdog bodies such as the Bank's own nine-strong Traded Market Team.

Both sides are on a sharp learning curve but if all concerned are working on the same lines there is less likelihood of potential loss-making positions remaining hidden until it is too late.

A second monitoring tool could be to merge the Bank's Special Investigations Unit and the SIB's

equivalent into a high powered task force patrolling the market with powers to spot check any rumour or market concerns at an early stage.

In the event of a disaster this SAS of the financial markets could also be mobilised as a rapid response unit to limit any subsequent damage or market fall-out.

**Out-of-town plans out of the window**

**T**he car is accelerating towards acquiring the same level of social unacceptability as tobacco, but the speed may not be fast enough to satisfy the Government.

This week it has tried persuasion as the route to encouraging people to leave the car behind, but there is a growing suspicion that it will soon reach for the stick. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is thought likely to raise petrol tax in his Budget next month, but another measure which might also appeal to an environmentally conscious administration is to call a halt to out-of-town development.

The rush to escape the confines of built-up areas has seen retail-

ers rushing out of town, where they can spread their wares and their car parks. More recently, they have been followed by the leisure operators, putting multiplex cinemas, sports centres and the like on sites with plenty of free parking.

In his reign at the Environment Department, John Gummer had already begun to clamp down on such schemes. Now his successors are likely to take an even tougher line, arguing the need to protect town centres from dereliction while also diminishing dependence on the car.

The ramifications of such a tightening of policy could be far-reaching. Companies such as Virgin, Rank and Warner, for instance, may have to review the charms of the single screen cinema. But a new clampdown can only enhance the value of those out-of-town palaces that already exist.

### Merger mystery

**MRS BECKETT'S** address to an invited audience yesterday made clear that she is keen on competition. Quite what this may mean in practice remains a mystery. While corporate financiers were delighted to learn that mergers may not have to be justified as positively in the public interest, most want to see what fate befalls a few bids before they celebrate. The decision on Bass's takeover of Carlsberg Tetley will be more enlightening than Mrs B's speech.

## NFC sales mark 'final' revamp at cost of £49m

By PAUL DURMAN

NFC, the transport and logistics company, is reorganising its businesses once again, this time at a cost of £49 million.

Gerry Murphy, chief executive, said the latest charges stem from the £207 million of disposals NFC announced yesterday. These include the sale of the Lynx parcel business to a management buyout for £26 million, and the sale of the BRS car leasing operation to GE Capital for £120 million.

Mr Murphy said NFC had "perfectly decent" results and was acting from a position of strength. He said: "We want to focus on fewer businesses, with quite serious financial firepower to invest in those businesses."

He said the latest reorganisation provisions would be the last. One analyst commented: "The trouble is, NFC has been reorganising as long as I can remember. More cynical investors may think that perhaps it's not [the final provision]."

Other changes include the departure of Graham Roberts, who was chief executive of the loss-making continental Euro-

pean business. Paid £170,000 last year, he had been with the group for 26 years since joining as a graduate trainee.

Besides trying to cut the European losses, which rose by £800,000 to £5.3 million in the six months to the end of March, NFC is also reorganising BRS's truck rental, contract hire and engineering activities.

It has closed the Next Day Pallet network that was part of Excel Logistics, and plans to cut

the number of sites from which it operates in the UK.

NFC said its underlying pre-tax profits for the half-year rose 13 per cent to £50.1 million, and it also made a £3.2 million profit on property sales. The £49 million cost of the reorganisation and £20 million profit on the disposals will be taken in the second half.

The buyout of Lynx, under discussion for several months, is backed by NatWest Ven-

tures, which is investing £9.9 million in the £100 million business.

The parcel firm's management team, headed by Philip Rose, have invested £1.8 million. Lynx, now returned to profitability, employs 3,000 people.

BRS Car Lease, originally formed to manage NFC's car fleets, made a £10 million profit on sales of £49 million last year. Last September it had net assets of £87 million.

NFC has also sold the remaining US and Canadian activities of Pickfords, the removal firm.

The group's operating profits from the UK and Ireland increased 12 per cent to £39.1 million, aided by a good performance from Pickfords, which was itself helped by the strengthening housing market.

Excel Logistics has surrendered its contracts with Whirbread, Homebase and Boots because they were only marginally profitable.

NFC will pay an unchanged interim dividend of 2.5p a share on August 11.



## Heal's branching out of London

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

HEAL'S, the furniture retailer that floated on the London Stock Exchange in March, is planning a new store in Dublin, Newcastle upon Tyne and Leeds. It is also looking to open stores of 12,000 to 15,000 sq ft in smaller towns and cities such as Bristol, Bath, Oxford and Cambridge.

new branches every year.

Colin Pilgrim, chief executive, said that the company was looking to open stores of up to 25,000 sq ft in other large cities, including Dublin, Newcastle upon Tyne and Leeds.

The retailer aims to expand its three stores, which are all in the London area, to up to ten by opening one or two

new branches every year. Colin Pilgrim, chief executive, said that the company was looking to open stores of up to 25,000 sq ft in other large cities, including Dublin, Newcastle upon Tyne and Leeds.

The company expects to finish the refurbishment of its Tottenham Court Road store, and to refurbish its Guildford store, in the next two years, at a cost of about £2 million.

The cost of flotation, at £800,000, meant a fall in profits at the interim stage, Heal's reported yesterday. In the six months to March 29, pre-tax profit was £876,000

compared to £122 million a year ago. Underlying profits grew 37 per cent, however, on turnover that rose by 22 per cent, to £13.2 million. Like-for-like sales growth was 18 per cent. Mr Pilgrim said that trading had remained buoyant into the second half.

The company will not pay any dividend until the end of its financial year.

## Thomson to be sold for £80m

By ERIC REGULY

A MANAGEMENT team backed by a venture capital firm, agreed yesterday to buy Thomson Directories, the main competitor to BT's Yellow Pages, for £80 million.

The price is lower than expected. US West International, the overseas arm of America's US West Media Group, bought Thomson from Dun & Bradstreet for about £90 million in 1994. Thomson publishes 164 local directories in the UK.

The buyout team was led by Gary List, 45, a former Burger King executive who has been Thomson's chief executive for three years. Six other senior Thomson managers joined him. Mr List said the group will expand the business and develop new media formats for its content. Thomson recently launched CD-Rom and Internet services.

US West said it will spend the £80 million on its wireless telephony and cable businesses. In the UK, it owns half of One-2-One, the mobile phone company, and is a significant investor in TeleWest, the second-largest cable company.



with your accountancy training needs. Call Wendy James on 0171-814 6994 or post the coupon today.

POST TO: Wendy James, Association of Accounting Technicians, 154 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1R 5AD.

Please send me further details of how the AAT can help me.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in training myself, staff, (please tick relevant box).

1/5/97

AAT

The AAT aims to promote and enhance competence and professional development in accounting. Registered as a Charity, No 1050754.

## BT chief to double pay if MCI won

By ERIC REGULY

SIR PETER BONFIELD, the chief executive of British Telecom, is to be paid a bonus of £500,000, equivalent to his annual salary, if the company completes its £13 billion takeover of MCI, America's second largest long distance phone company.

BT's annual report, released yesterday, said the bonus would be paid over two years and will "take into account his contribution to the closing and effective implementation of the merger".

Sir Peter is to become chief executive of the merged company, to be called Concert. The merger, recently approved by the competition authorities in Brussels, awaits US approvals, which are expected in the autumn. Sir Peter will also become eligible for a variety of Concert bonus and share option plans. The value of the plans, however, will not be disclosed until next year.

Sir Peter's base salary in the year to the end of March, his first full year of employment at BT, was £498,800. A bonus of £225,000 and benefits took total pay to £750,900. He and Sir Iain Vallance, chairman, are eligible for performance-related bonuses limited to 50 per cent of their salaries. Sir Iain earned £698,900 in salary and bonus, up from £657,500 previously.

Michael Hepher, managing director, who left BT in January 1996, is still on the payroll and earned £510,000 in the last financial year. BT decided to continue paying him because he did not resign and was not fired. Mr Hepher, now chief executive of Charterhouse, is to be paid until his contract runs out in August.

## Beckett in signal of approval

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET BECKETT yesterday gave the go-ahead to National Express to take over North London Railways, the fifth rail franchise awarded to the bus and train travel group.

The President of the Board of Trade said there was no need to refer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the merger of National Express with the company that runs services from London to Northampton and in north and west London.

The decision comes two weeks after Mrs Beckett referred the National Express takeover of two other companies amid claims that its national coach service raised competition concerns.

Rivals criticised the award of the ScotRail franchise in Scotland and Central Trains in the West Midlands, saying passengers on some routes would be deprived of choice. National Express won arguably the most lucrative franchise, the subsidy-free Gatwick Express, and has also taken over Midland Main Line.

Mrs Beckett also said yesterday that she would not refer Great Western's acquisition of North West Railways to the MRC. In ruling on a referral in the case of the ScotRail and Central rail routes, Mrs Beckett overruled Office of Fair Trading advice, prompting suggestions that the new Government was taking a tougher line on rail franchises. But she underlined agreement with officials on the latest cases by saying: "I agreed with the Director-General of Fair Trading that there were no competition or other concerns which warranted reference."

## score!watch

CRICKET

England v Australia

First Test (day 1)

England:

107 for 0, 21.1 overs

12.36

www.beeb.com

Follow every ball of The Ashes by opening the free score!watch window on your computer

the score!

beeb @ the BBC

## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Norwich Union races to 349p on grey market



Regina Budginate processes Norwich Union applications

THE Norwich Union flotation later this month appears to be on course to repeat the successes at the Alliance & Leicester and Halifax by providing its customers with large windfalls.

The price being quoted on the unofficial grey market last night was 349p, way above the guideline of 240p to 290p laid down by the Norwich's financial advisers. Customers are in line to receive a minimum of 150p free shares as part of a £4 billion giveaway. They can buy more at a 25p discount to the average price tendered by the big City institutions.

Dealers in the Norwich are due to start on Monday week and the company will be admitted into the list of top 100 companies in September.

Last night brokers were expressing scepticism at the 345p bid/353p offer being quoted by IG Index, the City bookmaker. One commented: "I will be quite surprised if it fell outside of the 240p to 290p range already quoted."

Even so, IG Index has a good track record on pre-market openings and came close when forecasting the Halifax price. At the price quoted last night, the minimum windfall for Norwich customers would be worth £53.50p.

The rest of the equity market made a firm start on the back of the overnight rally by the Dow Jones industrial average. But these gains were not held, with the Governor of the Bank of England again warning about a revival of inflationary pressures in a speech at the International Monetary Fund conference held in Switzerland.

This, combined with an opening fall on Wall Street, left the FT-SE 100 index 0.7 down at 4,575.1 by the close. Turnover reached \$4.1 million, with early attention again focused on the financial sector. HSBC rose 23p to £18.70, reflecting a strong overnight performance in Hong Kong. Commercial Union was 15p down at 657.1p as SBC Warburg, the broker, expressed concern about potential problems for the group in France after this week's election result.

The City has started bracing itself for a bid soon for troubled Laura Ashley. The price fell 5p to yet another new low of 81.1p and is starting to look vulnerable. This latest fall was sparked by the seller

of line of 750,000 shares at the 80p level.

Further reflection of Tuesday's better-than-expected profits news made sure that Vodafone was the best performing share among the top 100. It rose 11p to 282.1p on turnover of 20.4 million shares. Merrill Lynch, Société Générale, Strauss, Turnbull and SBC Warburg have all been enthused by the numbers

and Lehman Brothers has raised its target price from 300p to 320p.

Speculative buying continued to drive Shield Diagnostics, with the price ending 45p higher at 497p, stretching the gain of the past two days to 75p. Whispers suggest a bid, at some stage, from rival British Biotech.

Atlas Converting Equipment responded to the bid

from Valmet Converting with a leap of 160p to 807.1p. The terms of 815p a share value Atlas at 862.2 million.

News of a bid approach saw CNC Properties touch 37p before ending the session just 2p better at 37.1p. Recent high-flier TLC also rose up 28p to 125p on news of a bid approach. The group is valued at £61 million.

A profits warning left Frost Group nursing a fall of 29.1p to 90p. James Frost, chairman, blamed the continuing petrol price war and said profits for the current year were unlikely to exceed last year's £3.8 million.

Black also tumbled 35p to 247.1p on the back of a profits warning. A first-half profits shortfall was compounded by the news that the second would be better, but was unlikely to match last year.

There was also a profits warning at Timstall, which knocked the shares 23.1p to 149p. The group suffered a profits setback in the first six months of the year and said that difficult trading conditions still persisted.

The dividend cut at Readicut left the shares 34p off at 37p, while the profits setback for Staveley Industries hit the shares 6p off at 166.1p.

Tradepoint touched 60p before rallying to close all-square at 75p after revealing details of its latest fundraising exercise. As part of an interim deal it has raised £775,000 by way of a placing.

■ **GILT-EDGED:** The biggest monthly rise on record in the service sector index from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply undermined bond markets. Worries about growing inflation were also undermined by that speech the Governor of the Bank of England made at the IMF in Switzerland. Prices drifted for much of the day, but closed off the bottom with the help of a late rally.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt fell 11.13p to 111.13p as the total number of contracts completed reached 60,000. Treasury 3 per cent 2015 finished 11.13p lower at 101.89p, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 ended three ticks off at 101.03p.

Trade in the FT-SE all-share index was 1.12 per cent higher at 1,167.5.

■ **RISES AMONG WATER SHARES RATIONED AFTER REGULATOR'S COMMENTS**

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

FT-SE water price index

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

NFC share price

Source: Datamann

The struggling cable-TV companies have two crucial decisions to make in the next few months. They have to decide whether they want to be content providers and packagers as well as distributors, and whether they want BSkyB to remain as their main source of programming.

The cable companies -- led by Cable and Wireless Communications, the four-way merger of Mercury Communications and three cable companies, and TeleWest, the number two player -- are under extreme pressure to devise a winning long-term strategy in a hurry because of the imminent arrival of competing methods of television delivery.

This month, the Independent Television Commission is to decide the outcome of the race for the digital terrestrial TV licences. The winner will gain the right to broadcast dozens of digital channels, greatly expanding viewing choice for the three quarters of the popula-

tion who have bought neither cable nor satellite TV services. Meanwhile, BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, is pushing ahead with plans to launch some 200 digital channels and interactive services by next spring. The explosion of choice threatens to leave the cable companies in third place in a market that may have enough room for only two main delivery systems.

The cable industry is a mess. The shares of each of the publicly listed players are trading below their flotation prices; TeleWest shares sank in a third of the issue price last week. Debt is enormous because of the billions spent gouging trenches into the urban landscape, and profits are nowhere in sight. Only about one in five homes passed by

cable takes the service. Furthermore, they are not seen as masters of their own destiny. BSkyB dominates their programming schedule to the extent that the typical viewer closely identifies cable with BSkyB. There is no cable-TV "brand" and little popular programming that does not come from BSkyB.

The cable companies, of course, were generally happy with this arrangement in the early years. Without BSkyB's offerings, notably the premium sport and movie channels, they might have no TV customers at all and they cannot

justify their existence as telephone-only businesses. They have since come to the conclusion that their relationship with BSkyB is not ideal, partly because it costs them more money than it used to.

Alan Lyons, an analyst at Heare Govett, said the gross programming margins earned by the cable companies have declined from 55 per cent in 1995 to 40 per cent. It is the view of some analysts that the cable companies have two ways to rectify the situation. They can either develop a closer arrangement with BSkyB, in which they would continue buying the bulk of

their programming from BSkyB in exchange for less costly terms, or do the opposite. This would mean developing their own content or buying it from another source. Two main sources of content would increase viewer choice, potentially boosting cable-TV penetration rates and giving BSkyB some incentive to drop its prices.

It seems highly unlikely that the cable companies will opt for developing their own content. Mr Lyons said: "The cable companies just want to be distributors. What they want to do is what they know best, which is operating cable-TV and

telephony networks." If so, they would have to buy the services from someone else. Enter the Mirror Group, owner of the *Daily Mirror* newspaper and the *Live TV* cable channels, and Flextech, the second-largest provider of cable and satellite programming, after BSkyB. The Mirror and Flextech know each other well. They each own 20 per cent of Scottish Media, the ITV and newspaper group, and David Montgomery and Roger Luard, their respective chief executives, are friends.

The Mirror has proposed launching a vehicle known internally as the Programme Company, which would supply and package channels for the cable companies. Details are scanty, but it seems that the family of subscription channels that are to be launched by the new

Flextech-BBC joint venture would be on offer if Flextech could be convinced to back the Mirror. Rights to other channels and services would be purchased and a TV brand clearly identified with the cable companies would be developed. The Mirror newspaper, for its part, would be used to cross-promote the channels and provide capital.

Programme Co wants Cable and Wireless Communications and TeleWest to become shareholders. Without their support as equity partners as well as buyers, it is unlikely that Programme Co will get off the ground. CWC has been approached and is thought to be taking the proposal seriously.

There is no guarantee that the Mirror proposal will become the deal that reverses the industry's flagging fortunes. What seems certain, however, is that one way or another, a sea change is in store for the way cable companies do business.

## Cable TV players signal time for action

Eric Reguly examines two vital decisions that the industry must take as digital promises viewers an explosion of choice

**Kevin Eason**  
on a revolution  
that will hasten  
the demise  
of the shifty  
forecourt shark

**A**rthur Daley would have thought a greenhouse gas was the hot air rising from the compost heap. For Britain's favourite car salesman yesterday, the launch of a high-profile Government campaign to get more commuters out of cars, must have been an uncomfortable meeting of cosy past and uncertain future.

Showrooms full of gleaming machinery designed entirely to entice buyers to burn carbon fuels and fill up their ten feet of road space were the target of ministers telling drivers to leave their cars at home during the month-long "Don't Choke Britain" campaign.

Britain is awash with cars and not even a salesman of Arthur Daley's genius would be able to shift them. The next generation of salesmen might, though, as the days of the hand-wringing, shifty forecourt shark are almost over. Instead, the showroom will become the high-technology battleground that will determine which carmakers make it through the millennium. The frontline staff who confront the customer and cut the costs that could keep a carmaker in business will be as vital to the efficiency of the manufacturer as the man on the assembly line.

A century after Daimler cars spluttered out of Britain's first factory in Coventry, the motor industry faces a revolution, spurred by overcapacity and the demands of increasingly environmentally conscious governments bound to demand curbs on car use.

The industry has blown apart government predictions of an increase in car ownership that would be terrifying by any standards -- from 25 million now to 40 million in use by 2020, a growth rate that could make today's bumper-to-bumper jams seem a minor interlude.

But the truth is likely to be much different. The signs are that car sales are levelling out



Daley dose: the type of car salesmanship represented by the actor George Cole is facing a marketing shakeup

throughout Western Europe as markets like Britain reach maturity, while the demands for reduced congestion will see many consumers swapping the car for a bus, train or cycle.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders says that the ownership figure for 2020 is more likely to be 30 million, depending on demographics and how many cars are scrapped annually. So carmakers will have to accept annual sales of new cars at around 2 million for the foreseeable future, at a time when there are too many manufacturers making too many models -- 4 million too many cars annually in Europe alone. As a result competition will be fiercer than at almost any time in the industry's history as carmakers become increasingly desperate to keep costs down.

There are more cars to choose from and more badges. A decade ago Ford took up to 30 per cent of the British new-car market, relying on its

mainstream Escort and Fiesta; now it is struggling to hold on to 10 per cent in the face of European and Japanese competition, as well as Far Eastern marques such as Daewoo and Hyundai from South Korea, and Proton of Malaysia.

Nobody buys a car any more either: they buy a "lifestyle", so manufacturers make a range of models from one chassis, such as the Ford Puma being launched soon -- sports coupé on top but Fiesta underneath. The marketing is slick and there is little more carmakers can do to improve factory efficiency, particularly in Britain where they have been among the quickest to adapt and utilise the just-in-time delivery and team-working techniques pioneered by the Japanese. Costs are down to the bone, factories are working longer and quicker and the quality of cars is higher.

The contrast with dealerships, which often seem to be geared to the needs of Near-death man, could not be greater. But the good old days

of piling them high and selling them cheap, with salesmen haggling over price simply to keep the metal moving, are doomed. The showroom revolution might have started slowly but will gather pace in the next three years at a rate that will shock dozens of dealers out of business.

**T**he Retail Motor Industry Federation calculates that today's 7,400 franchised dealerships will be no more than 5,500 by 2000, and will probably be concentrated in fewer hands as the top ten dealer companies -- already among the world's largest retailers -- exert their influence over the way we buy cars.

Chris Macgowan, the federation's chief executive, says: "It is finally registering with the manufacturers that the dealer is not the last link in the chain; it is at the centre of the hub and vital to their future. We have reached a stage where the prospect of continuous growth in annual car sales and ownership is no more; we

are replacing cars, not adding constantly to the numbers," he said. "To stay in the market, carmakers and dealers will have to produce to sell at the right price and be able to distribute their cars properly, cheaply and efficiently."

While manufacturers spent a decade striving to make cars efficiently they forgot the mechanics of getting their product from factory to showroom. Dealers would hold vast and expensive stocks on vast and expensive lots of land in an assortment of specifications or colours. If the customer in Exeter wanted red when there was only blue in stock, the dealer had to travel the network and have it shipped in.

Malcolm Harbour, director of the International Car Distribution Programme, estimates that the total cost of such inefficiency could be as much as £431-a-car -- around 5 per cent of the retail price of a family hatchback.

As dealers become more efficient, they must also change their image: out with

the best outcome for the future and options markets might be for EMU to go ahead, given the huge amount of business this would drum up for dealers, he accepted. But he added: "It is a moot point as to whether the impact on the profits and bonuses of derivatives traders will be the number one criterion in the minds of Labour MPs when they come to reach a view on EMU -- but I will certainly draw it to their attention if you would like me to."

### Archie's choice

ARCHIE NORMAN, chairman of Asda and fledgling MP, will today or tomorrow decide which of the Tory party leadership candidates he will support. Rumour has him edging towards William Hague, a fellow graduate of McKinsey, the management consultants. Norman has been strangely silent since the election, but he breaks his silence to admit this -- "at the moment the stress is on the word considering. The sensible thing for people in my position is to see all the candidates and form a view". There is one more contender for Norman's support, but he is not saying who.

But what of rumours that the man who turned around Asda might be up for the party chairmanship, and the rather more difficult job of revitalising the Conservative brand image, if Hague wins the election? "One of the things you discover about the leadership election is that because there are six candidates, all sorts of

people get suggested for one position or another," he says, which I take to mean that all sorts of promises are being made in smoke-filled rooms. "I'm completely new to the House of Commons -- I might not have the experience." Too modest, too modest.

● **THE Hodgson presence lingers at Ronson.** Howard Hodgson may have gone from the lighter firm, but his son Howard Hodgson Jr remains. They could hardly fire him, because his face features in a new advertising campaign for watches, as you can see, with the slogan "It's tough on the streets. How true. Just ask Daddy."

MARTIN WALLER



Ronson's advertising campaign for watches keeps it in the family

### BUSINESS LETTERS

#### Governor's supervision called into question after three bank disasters

From the chairman, Barings 99.9 per cent Perpetual Noteholders Action Group

Sir, It is very comforting to read that Lord Alexander appears to have expressed the view that Mr George "has been an excellent Governor". He can, of course, speak of Mr George's prowess as a banker, talking about another banker; but this week's changes have dealt with the issue of Mr George's capacity as a regulator/supervisor.

I am sure that Lord Alexander would not have been so foolish as to have been a depositor with BCCI or have had any involvement with Johnson Matthey or with Barings and thus his involvement with those three disasters of banking supervision may not have come into focus as they have, for example, for my constituents, the 1994 Permanent Bondholders.

The truth of the matter is that had Mr George and his team done what they arguably ought to have done, which is to have enforced the large exposure directive, the Barings collapse might never have happened. In a sense what is even more disappointing about Mr George's ability to supervise is the way he set up his internal inquiry.

Lord Alexander will be the first to know that for such an inquiry to have any weight it must be independent, and the Bank of England's inquiry was far from independent given the make-up of the Board of Inquiry.

What the City requires is a supervisory body that has bite and accepts responsibility, not what Mr George presided over, namely a toothless organisation which ducked behind some form of "Crown privilege".

Why should a para-statal organisation charged with specific obligations on behalf of the investing public not compensate the investing public when it falls down on those obligations?

Yours faithfully,

J. M. L. STONE, c/o S. J. Berwin & Co., 222 Grays Inn Road, WC1.

Tiddlers in a big pond should not be ignored

From the Head of Corporate Affairs, Bristol Water Plc

Sir, In all the plethora of coverage over who is going to be/should be/refuses to be affected by the windfall tax on privatised utilities, I see little or no reference to the position of the water-only companies such as Bristol. Yes, we are utilities; yes, we are monopolies. But we were not privatised. Bristol, for example, has just celebrated its 150th year of service to the community as a private company. When the water authorities were privatised, we did not have our debts written off and we did not get green dowries.

We have had to meet the same economic, customer service, quality and environmental regulation regimes as the water and sewerage companies, but starting from a much weaker financial base. We have certainly not made excessive profits against those planned and we have a good track record on everything from resources management through to leakage levels.

Surely, if anybody has a good case for being exempted from the windfall tax, it's us. This "tiddler" of the industry supplies over a million people. We just hope that Labour does recognise that all water companies are not the same.

Yours faithfully,

JEREMY WILLIAMS, Head of Corporate Affairs, Bristol Water Plc, PO Box 218, Bridgwater Road, Bristol.

**Flexible mortgages for directors and the self employed ... and no details of income needed!**

FINDING A MORTGAGE if you are self employed or a director of your own company can be a frustrating experience. Many lenders will request three years full audited accounts before an application is even considered, whilst others now refuse such applications completely.

Freedman & Co, on the other hand, positively welcomes such requests and, in conjunction with a major UK bank, has developed an exclusive mortgage arrangement to cater for these needs.

Your home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage or other loan secured on it. Suitable security and adequate life cover may be required by the lender. Full written quotations on request.

Contact Freedman & Co, QUOTING REF TD15 Call FREE on 0500 617151 · Fax: 01727 840976

E-mail: freedman@moneysense.co.uk · www.moneysense.co.uk

Legal Fiduciary represents only the Allied Dunbar Marketing Group, which is regulated by the Financial Investment Authority in respect to its insurance, pension and investment plans.

Using Allied Dunbar's name, Freedman & Co is a licensed credit broker.

**Mortgage flexibility for business people**

**ALLIED DUNBAR**

## Raised voices

THE battle to find a successor to Peter Birch, chief executive of Abbey National, by next spring has occasioned some heated scenes within the bank's Baker Street boardroom. There are three internal candidates. In the lead is the institutions' favourite, Ian Hanley, 46, finance director and 25 years an Abbey man. Coming up on the rails is Andrew Popple, 38, in charge of retail banking, who may have to wait until next time around. Third is Tim Ingram, 49, managing director of the European arm. Temers have become frayed, and even

on occasion lost, I fear, over the preliminary merger talks with NatWest and the failed bid for Scottish Amicable. Birch wants to bow out on a high note. My boardroom mole tells me that not all Abbey directors are as keen for a NatWest link -- some opposed it even if this prevented them from currying favour with Birch to be his chosen successor. Perhaps the Abbey should instead resume merger talks with the Prudential.

● **GAVIN STRANG**, our new transport secretary, addressing a joint conference held by the pressure groups London First and Transport 2000: "The only true test for the Department of Transport is, what progress are we making on the ground?"

### Crash time

WHEN, several weeks ago, I revealed the identity of Tony Blair's hairdresser, the poor man's salon was promptly besieged by tabloid reporters. Here's another tip, boys. An industrial tribunal hearing in Croydon Monday brought by one Caroline Olds, her former employer, Computacenter -- yes, I fear that is how they spell it -- provided, among other things, the dealings systems at NatWest Markets, BZW and SBC Warburg. Olds claims to be a former



super-saleswoman earning £250,000 at her best who has been dumped after nine years with the company. She also alleges sexual discrimination. The company is denying this.

"We've gone out of our way to be cooperative, and it's very unfortunate it's come to this," said a spokesman. The point is that on Monday there may, or there may not, be some rather hairy allegations made about Olds' relationship with a senior colleague. We shall see.

Options trade

HOWARD DAVIES was in sardonic mood when he addressed the opening of the conference on international derivatives at the Inter-Continental Hotel on the subject of the single cur-



# Ombudsman fears super watchdog could be a disaster

BY NATHAN YATES AND ROBERT MILLER

THE complaints system under the proposed new super-SIB watchdog could turn into a "disastrous" and "bureaucratic" body acting against the interests of investors, the Peter Dean, the Investment Ombudsman, said warning yesterday.

Delivering his annual report, Mr Dean called for the distinctions between the ombudsman to be retained under the beefed-up Securities and

Investments Board (SIB). "There is a danger that the new system will create a cumbersome bureaucratic pyramid," he said. "A move in this direction would be quite disastrous and would frustrate the essential aim of administering justice."

The Investment Ombudsman, whose brief covers complaints against fund managers regulated by the Investment Management Regu-

latory Organisation (Imro), said that steps should be taken to safeguard the current "patchwork quilt" system, which respects regulators' specialisms. He claimed that installing a hierarchical system for dealing with complaints would damage the ombudsman's independence.

Commenting on Government plans to overhaul the regulation of financial services unperformed by a new Financial Services Act, Mr Dean said: "I expect to be consulted before any changes are put in place."

The ombudsman's annual report revealed that the average time taken to process a complaint has jumped by more than 160 per cent since April 1996, and stands at seven and a half months. The cost of the complaints procedure operation now is an average of £1,000 for every complaint.

Mr Dean admitted that the time taken to process complaints was "unsatisfactory", but claimed that this was due to a rush of extra business caused by the recent closure of the IMRO complaints office. He added that although the number of full-time investigating officers had been cut from four to three last year the average time taken to process complaints was falling, with six months being a target.

Mr Dean admitted that the existence of multiple bodies dealing with investors' complaints created "confusion and overlap".

He said: "Investors were supplied with illustrations pointing out the exact returns available before sending in their cheques."

Advertisements for savings accounts were found to make misleading comparisons. Direct Line contrasted one of its savings accounts with a Nationwide account whose rate was lower than the building society's postal account rate. Direct Line defended the advertisement, saying that Nationwide had used the account paying the lower rate in its own campaign.

by fund management groups. An advertisement for Legal & General's Election Pep was highlighted, in particular its claim that the investment offered "market growth plus 40 per cent". Half of a 30-strong consumer panel believed that if the market rose 10 per cent, the Legal & General scheme would offer 10 per cent growth plus an extra 40 per cent, giving 50 per cent in total. In reality, investors stood to receive 10 per cent plus 40 per cent of that 10 per cent, making 14 per cent.

Michael Hayden, managing director of retail investment products at Legal & General, said that investors were supplied with illustrations pointing out the exact returns available before sending in their cheques.

Advertisements for savings accounts were found to make misleading comparisons. Direct Line contrasted one of its savings accounts with a Nationwide account whose rate was lower than the building society's postal account rate. Direct Line defended the advertisement, saying that Nationwide had used the account paying the lower rate in its own campaign.



Roy Franklin is regarded as a likely candidate to be chief executive at Seafield

## Seafield to appoint chief

BY FRASER NELSON

ROY FRANKLIN, who lost his job as managing director of Clyde Petroleum when it was taken over by Gulf Canada two months ago, is expected to be named chief executive of Seafield Resources, the oil exploration company.

Analysts said Mr Franklin is a very likely candidate for Seafield, but few saw the logic behind a bid from Dana.

One said: "Mr Franklin has

a wide following in the City, and it would make sense for an oil company director without a job to join an oil company without a chief executive.

But a takeover by Dana is

hard to imagine: they are two

very different companies and

Seafield is held by a lot of big

name institutions who would not sell out to a little oil company with a few interests in Russia."

National Power holds a 23.7 per cent stake in Seafield and PDRM has 15.2 per cent. The value of the holdings has almost halved in the past 12 months.

Seafield's shares trade at 48p, valuing the company at £33 million. Dana is valued at £113 million.

Tom Cross, Dana chief executive, is understood to be a personal friend of Roger Wills, Seafield's finance director.

## ACCOUNTANCY

# Faith is sure to lead to change

Douglas Fairbairn assesses the Labour Party's will to tighten the screws on tax avoidance

Back in 1995, Labour dismissed the idea of a statutory general anti-avoidance rule, saying it thought it would be unworkable in practice. So you might think that that was a major potential compliance burden out of the way. But its alternative was to allow the tax authorities to "act quickly against newly discovered technical loopholes and abuses" — and enable them to assess liability for tax according to their judgment of the real intentions of economic agents, whether companies or individuals, and not by the letter of the law.\*

Since then the reference to non-statutory action has not reappeared but it is clear that the Government is in complete sympathy with the aims of spend to save.

When Ernst & Young asked business people during the election campaign about their view of possible anti-avoidance measures, we found overwhelming majorities who rejected any need for general legislation or giving the Inland Revenue the ability to impose its view of a transaction regardless of the law. We also found that 62 per cent of respondents did not agree that any extra



Douglas Fairbairn fears a system that nobody wants

powers were needed at all. So the years of bipartisan rhetoric do not seem to have convinced their main targets.

You might argue that nothing has changed with the change of Government. But I think a change is on the way, in degree if not in kind. In Opposition Labour was very keen to list "tax abuses" which it thought should be stopped.

In some cases these were commercially available planning ideas and, once they had lost the Exchequer enough money to be a nuisance, Kenneth Clarke duly stopped them. But other "abuses" were no such thing.

While I can see that the Labour Party might disagree with the current tax consequences of the residence and domicile concepts, it is not exactly an abuse to benefit from them in legal and open manner.

It criticised the CFC (controlled foreign companies) and FID (foreign income dividend) legislation, among others, as being, or containing,

"loopholes" — not exactly the first word that springs to mind when I think of them.

Finally, there was the "tougher than thou" approach — for instance, the attempt to make

almost been an article of faith — and now it has closed off some obvious tax-raising routes, anti-avoidance measures will be that much more important.

If I am right, then we will see an intensification of the Clarke approach to anti-avoidance. At best, the return to new tax planning schemes will be quicker off the mark and more complete, and tax advisers and their clients will simply have to accept that.

At worst, there will be more vaguely worded press releases, more rushed (or delayed) legislation, more uncertainty during the interim and more compliance burdens for taxpayers trying to carry out legitimate commercial transactions.

Ultimately, I suspect that the promised review of the corporate tax system might well land us with a general anti-avoidance provision that no one wants. The Inland Revenue would have trouble resourcing it: companies would simply have yet another hoop to jump through.

Opposition is an easy place from which to see things in black and white. Will Mr Brown learn to see in shades of grey?

□ Douglas Fairbairn is the national head of tax for Ernst & Young, the international business adviser.

\* A New Economic Future for Britain, July 1995.

after that. But for now she has ordered staff to refer to her simply as Dame.

### Joint effort

AUSTIN MITCHELL, the iconoclastic MP whose crusade against the accountancy profession kept up its pace with an article on these pages last week, would like it to be known that he is not alone in casting hot coals onto the leaders of the profession. His article was co-authored by Jim Cousins, his fellow MP.

## Consultants' lesson in how not to do it

THIS is not how large accounting firms, or even global professional services organisations, are supposed to work. There may be political and personal battles of astonishing bitterness when a new chief executive or managing partner is needed. There may be blood on the carpets in London, New York and Tokyo. But the news that this is going on is not supposed to leak out.

That is one of the strengths of a partnership. Like the old days of Kremlin politics a favoured candidate "emerges". He, and to date they have always been a he, then goes forward to a vote by the full partnership. His is the only name on the ballot paper. It is acclamation rather than democracy by this stage.

But for Andersen Worldwide, the world's largest professional services group, it has all gone wrong. It may be capable of generating huge fees (\$9.5 billion last year and an estimated \$11 billion this year) and providing clients around the world with solutions to their business problems, but it has messed up its own. And like many organisations where head office has got itself into the mire, it has sent for the management consultants.

What has happened was predictable, but should not have occurred. Larry Weinbach, Andersen Worldwide's current chief, has presided over unprecedented growth during his two terms in office. He is standing down in August and a successor is required. At this point unresolved problems from Weinbach's era return to spoil the smooth transition.

Andersen has been pulled in different ways. Its legendary consulting arm goes from strength to strength while the rest of the firm grows at a slower, though highly dynamic, rate. In 1989 these tensions were recognised. Andersen Consulting split off as a separate entity, leaving Arthur Andersen, the original firm, behind. An umbrella body, Andersen Worldwide, presides over the two arms.

Consulting had a faster growth rate and it overtook its parent in terms of annual fee income last year. But crucially for the votes for a successor, it has fewer partners than Arthur Andersen — 1,038 compared with 1,700. That disparity has an effect not only on the relative voting strengths, but also on profit-sharing arrangements.

So in 1995 Weinbach set up a process called Andersen 21 which was charged with coming up with a future strategy to solve this prob-

lem. In Paris at the end of April the results were agreed, with some fudging at the corners. Whereas a head of steam had developed for further splits along the lines of specialisations and product lines, the meeting finally decided to hold everything together.

It was felt better to keep the tensions in-house than let the potential break-up take public form. At this point the nominating board came up with names for consideration as the new chief executive. They were Jim Wadia, the UK managing partner, and George Shaheen, the head of Andersen Consulting.

Here another set of converging figures are important. Just as the balance of fees earned tipped the political balance between consulting and the rest, the figures emphasising the globalisation of the firm are now crucial. Last year Andersen Worldwide had 45,000 people working in the Americas and 44,000 elsewhere. The most recent figures show that for the first time the balance has tilted: 49,500 work in the Americas, while some 50,000 work elsewhere. For the first time in the firm's history more people work for it outside the Americas. For a firm which has been the most all-American of organisations this is an important cultural shift.

So, leaving aside a pile of other reasons, it seemed to make sense to signal this shift by choosing, for the first time, a chief executive who was not an American. The nominating board put forward Wadia's name. If two thirds of the partners voted for him, the job was his. But in an unprecedented failure when the final votes came in at the end of last week it was clear that while Wadia had a majority it was not high enough. The greatest mistake that Andersen had made was in Paris in April. They had let partners take a straw poll through the electronic voting system at the convention. Shaheen received a 70 per cent vote. Wadia only 60 per cent. On that poll it was obvious that the combination of Consulting muscle allied with the firm's immensely strong American roots would make it hard for Wadia to win through. And so it proved.

Now Shaheen's name has been put forward to the partners for a vote. At the end of the process the organisation will pull together. Fees and growth are what is important. But they will only have postponed the most profound changes to a future date.



ROBERT BRUCE

## Batting for the English ICA

BEING president of the English ICA can be a tough job. Members are always complaining. Government ministers can give you a hard time. But Chris Laine, who took up the presidential mantle yesterday, knows that he has faced tougher opposition in his time. And seen it off.

He is an enthusiastic cricketer. And many years ago

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

when both men were closer to their sporting prime he found himself facing Wesley Hall, the great West Indian fast bowler, on a fast pitch in Barbados. "He was very quick indeed," he recalls. "There was no time for second thoughts." English ICA members should take comfort from the fact that Hall did not get Laine out. He weathered the storm. "And then I relaxed

against the bowler at the other end, and he got me out."

### Just a dame

DAME SHEILA MASTERS started her career as an officeholder at the English ICA this week. She has let it be known in a memo to institute staff that she does not want to be known as the vice-president this year. She is happy to be called deputy president next year and president the year

after that. But for now she has ordered staff to refer to her simply as Dame.

### Joint effort

AUSTIN MITCHELL, the iconoclastic MP whose crusade against the accountancy profession kept up its pace with an article on these pages last week, would like it to be known that he is not alone in casting hot coals onto the leaders of the profession. His article was co-authored by Jim Cousins, his fellow MP.

lding

## • Anti-fraction faction wins US decimal point

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN  
IN NEW YORK

FRACTIONS edged closer to extinction on Wall Street yesterday after the Nasdaq stock market said it would publish a "position paper" on decimal pricing of stocks by September 1.

Under intense pressure to follow suit, officials at the New York Stock Exchange, America's oldest, conceded that they would have to make a preliminary proposal on pricing reform this week.

Nasdaq's pragmatic moves (and the NYSE's resentful ones) follow the recent approval, by a senators' sub-committee, of legislation that

would force Wall Street to change its system of stock prices from one based on eighths of a dollar to the tidier decimal system.

The eccentric American method is unchanged from 1752, when the NYSE was founded and the Spanish gold dollar was the most trusted currency in the colonies. Change, then, was made by physically breaking the deeply scored coins into eight equal pieces.

So entrenched is the system that when the Nasdaq market was launched in 1971, it, too, embraced the hoary system of fractions. No other country shares the system. But experts believe that it costs investors billions of dollars

in stock purchase prices that might otherwise be lower. The size of a "tick" — or minimum price movement — on the NYSE is 12.5 cents. Increments of one eighth favour buyers much less than increments of a tenth would.

Senator Michael Oxley, a co-sponsor of the Bill on decimal pricing currently before the House of Representatives' Commerce Committee, said the fractions system was "anti-consumer". He said: "Decimals are also easier. They make perfect sense."

Proponents of decimals say they are necessary for three reasons: everyone else has them; small buyers would understand the market

better; and the "spread" between buying and selling prices for stocks would narrow. This last point lies at the centre of the NYSE's opposition to change: the larger the spread, the higher the traders' commission.

Yet with all US exchanges bar the NYSE now accepting that the eighth is a fraction too large for fair trade — Nasdaq, this week, became the latest to permit the one-sixteenth tick — the gentle push for the decimal has become a powerful shove. In a letter to Senator Oxley, even the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission conceded that the demise of the fraction was "inevitable".

## • Minister to tighten up on rogue directors

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE Government will today announce a sharp rise in the number of directors to face disqualification — and unveil tough new rules aimed at protecting consumers when companies go bust.

Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister, is expected to threaten punitive sanctions for rogue operators as part of a wider drive to clean up trading standards. Mr Griffiths has promised a "revolution" for British consumers, saying their interests have been neglected by previous governments.

The number of directors banned or disqualified increased nearly 50 per cent last year, according to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Some 946 directors were deemed unfit to hold office, up from 633 in 1995. Actions were started against 1,376 directors, up 20 per cent on the previous year.

The rise in disqualifications is partly because of new reporting standards introduced last September, which make it easier for insolvency practitioners to identify and

report misconduct. Ministers are keen to promote a healthy business climate in which enterprise can flourish.

Today's pronouncements are intended to underline the Government's commitment to protecting the consumer. Mr Griffiths is expected to single out so-called "phoenix directors" who continually reinvent themselves with new enterprises, leaving a trail of disadvantaged creditors and consumers in their wake. A relatively small percentage of rogue directors is to blame.

Examples include unbonded travel agents who go out of business, stranding passengers, and throwing holiday plans into disarray. As unsecured creditors, consumers rank well below the banks and suppliers in terms of distributions. Mr Griffiths will reaffirm the Government's tough new stance on rogue directors and pledge to put questionable practices under increased scrutiny.

Mr Griffiths has kept up a fast-paced programme since taking office. He has cautioned against lenders who prey on people with poor credit records, and pledged early action on a raft of fronts. He has been particularly critical of electrical retailers, who have been put on watch by the Office of Fair Trading over high-priced extended warranties.

Mr Griffiths has pledged to take "whatever steps are necessary" in ensuring that people taking out bank loans and mortgages have all the available information at their disposal.

He said: "The system now is far too weighted in the banks and building societies' favour, and consumers find themselves at a disadvantage."

Griffiths: tough stance

### THE TIMES CROSSWORD

Books, Guides, Dictionaries for all Crossword buffs.  
EXCEPT FOR THE ITEMS ASTERISKED ALL PRICES  
LISTED AT STANDARD RRP (UK)

Rest of the World (including other EU countries) add £2 per item.  
Sterling or US\$ only. £1.65 - US\$1.60

The Times Crosswords - Books 10,11,12,13  
£3.99 each

The Times Jumbo Crosswords (cryptic)  
Book 3 £4.99

The Times Concise Crosswords Book 2  
(240 puzzles) £5.99

The Times Two Crosswords  
Book 6 £2.99

Crossword Manual by Don Manley £9.99

Roger's Thesaurus NOW only £6.99\*

Crossword Solver's Dictionary £11.95 (UK only)

Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms £7.99\*

Dictionary of Astronomy £9.99

Crossword Completer by Peter Schwartz £12.99

Words which appear in *The Times* Crosswords are found usually in at least two of the undermentioned dictionaries

Collins English Dictionary £25 (UK only)

The Chambers Dictionary £25 (UK only)

also available on IBM CD-ROM £29.99

The Concise Oxford Dictionary — available from good bookshops £12.99

Send SAE for other publications

### PLUS QUALITY COMPUTER SOFTWARE

The Times Computer Crosswords  
by David Akenhead

Including optional HELP levels and TEAM FACILITY on 3.5" diskette (circa 60 crosswords on each)  
NOTE: numbers in brackets denote number of diskettes

The Times Crosswords (19) (Books 1 to 19)

The Times Crosswords - Omnibus Edns 1 & 2 (2+2)

The Times Concise Crosswords (4) (Books 1 to 6)

The Times Two Crosswords (6) (Books 1 to 6)

The Times Crosswords Jubilee Edition (1932-1987)

The Sunday Times Crosswords (21 various)

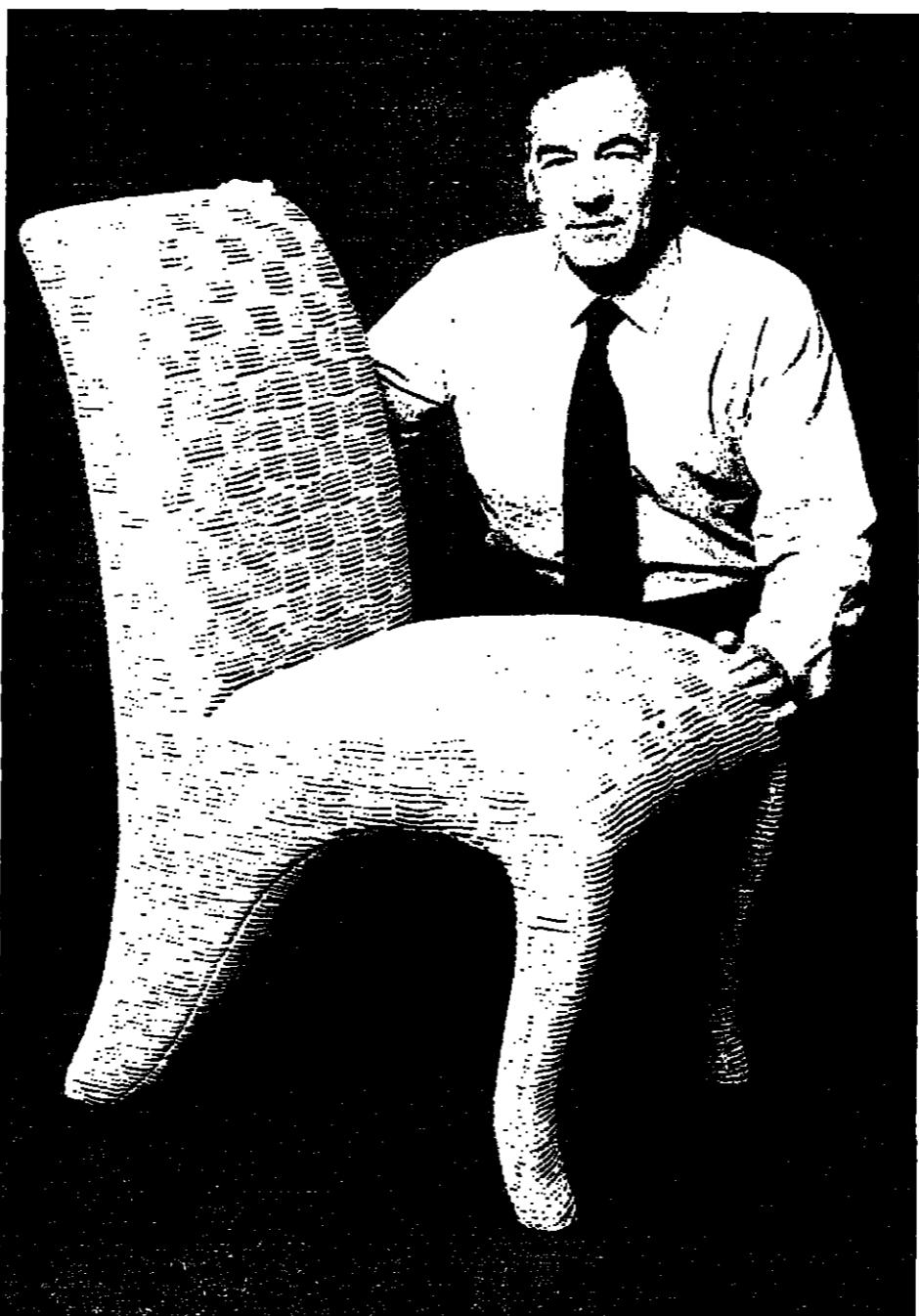
SOFTWARE PRICES IBM MS-Dos NEW  
(including VAT) Acorn Risc-OS IBM Windows  
(please specify)

1 diskette £10.25 £15.00

2 diskettes £14.99 £22.00

additional diskettes £5 each £8 each

Please send cheques with order payable to Akom Ltd, NOW AT:  
32 The Village, Blackheath, London SE3 9SY. Tel 0181 852  
4575. Allow 8 days for delivery. Sorry, no credit cards.



David Green is ready to take his seat at the helm of Larsen, his company's new purchase

### Colefax and Fowler buys US company

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

COLEFAX and Fowler, the wallpaper and furnishing fabrics group, is to pay £4.03 million cash for Jack Lenor Larsen, the US fabrics company.

The acquisition is being paid for by a conditional placing, carried out yesterday, of 1.27 million new ordinary shares in Colefax and Fowler at 105p, raising £1.34 million.

Rationalising the Larsen business will result in an exceptional charge of some £1.25 million in the current financial year. The acquisition will take Colefax and Fowler's gearing to 40 per cent. Colefax and Fowler said that the sales increase it experienced in the first half continued in the second half of the year.

The pollution controls, minerals and paper company credited the fall of global raw material prices for its recovery from last year's slump as it returned pre-tax profits 30 per cent ahead at £54.6 million.

CPS, the American polymers producer that it bought for £234 million in January, generated profits of £5.1 million before tax, although inter-

est on the debt taken to make the deal cost £1.2 million.

Chemical prices, which surged 25 per cent two years ago, eased 12 per cent last year, allowing the company's gross margin to be restored to 40.8 per cent by March, against an average 36.2 per cent the previous year. Earnings grew to 6.76p a share, from 5.57p last time, with a 10 per cent dividend rise to 3.15p. A final 2.51p is due on August 22.

Tighter environmental legislation in Europe and the US helped its pollution control division to generate a 15.7 per cent increase in sales.

Its paper division saw a 12.4 per cent jump in business as printers returned to the market after running out of stock, built up to avoid the surge in pulp prices two years ago.

Although overseas markets spoke for 89 per cent of group sales, the company profited from the soaring pound by hedging orders and using the gain to pay £1.9 million less for the \$390 million acquisition of CPS in November.

David Farrar, chief executive, cautioned that currency fluctuations will shave about £6.5 million from the results next time, but this would be offset by profits from CPS.

### Atlas board backs £86m takeover bid by Finns

BY OLIVER AUGUST

THE board of Atlas Converting, the machine manufacturer, has recommended an £86 million takeover bid, which was yesterday announced by Valmet, the Finnish paper machine maker.

The offer values the shares at 815p, a premium of 26 per cent on Tuesday's closing price.

Chris Rogers, the Atlas chairman, said the merger with Valmet would strengthen its international base.

Matti Sundberg, the Valmet chief executive, said: "This acquisition brings together a global leader in paper ma-

chines, process automation and related services for the pulp and paper industry with Atlas."

Valmet has received irrevocable undertakings from the directors of Atlas to accept the offer, representing a total of 26 per cent of the share capital.

The acquisition is seen as a move to increase market share aggressively ahead of expected price increases.

Valmet said: "Prices of pulp and various paper grades remained at the low level to which they fell during the first half of 1996."

The company added: "It is

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Troubled Readicut blames sterling

READICUT International is to cut its dividend for the first time in seven years, claiming that the soaring pound has blunted its ability to compete in every one of its markets at home and abroad. Cheap foreign imports were weakening its core UK market, it said, leading to pre-tax profits of £10 million (£9.27 million) for the year to March 31 — some £5 million behind what some analysts were expecting. The total dividend falls to 2.58p (3.44p), with a final 1.95p due August 11.

Sales of umbrella frames propped up its industrial products division, whose exporting arm saw profits decline from £3.3 million to £3 million. Yarns and fibres profit fell to £1 million (£3.6 million) after heavy costs setting up a US operation, which has since broken into profit. Its yarn spinning business lost £2 million after a plan to turn it around ran into difficulties. Brian Leckie, chief executive, said the dividend cut saves £1.78 million. He said: "We believe that the dividend was maintained without cover for too long."

### Caffyns lifts payout

CAFFYNNS, the motor dealer based in Sussex, is increasing the annual dividend for the first time this decade after pre-tax profits rose to £1.3 million from £629,000 in the year to March 31. The company reports a strong start to the current financial year. Turnover rose to £65.55 million from £60.55 million previously. The total dividend is lifted to 12.5p a share from 11.5p, with a 7.5p final. The shares rose 17.5p to 320p yesterday.

### Blick down at half time

SHARES in Blick, the electronic equipment company, fell 35p to 247.5p as pre-tax profits fell from £7 million to £6.2 million after a disappointing performance from the Teletechnic subsidiary. Earnings fell from 15.2p to 13.5p. The half-year dividend is held at 4.5p. Alan Elliott, the chairman, said: "We have had a difficult half year. Remedial action has been taken and I believe that the second half of this year will be better than the first but is unlikely to match last year's."

### Westminster acquisition

WESTMINSTER Health Care, the nursing home and health care group, has acquired PPP Beaumont, PPP Healthcare's nursing home and assisted living division, for a total of £22.6 million. PPP Beaumont, with net assets of £22.2 million at December 31, operates nine nursing centres with a further two under construction, comprising 510 registered beds with 148 assisted living apartments. In 1996 it earned pre-tax profits of £160,000 on turnover of £8.3 million.

### Barcom sales increase

BARCOM, the building and construction group, raised pre-tax profits from £908,000 to £1.3 million in the six months to March 31, on sales up from £21.3 million to £27.2 million. Earnings per share rose from 1.7p to 2.2p and a maintained interim dividend of 0.5p will be paid. Barcom said all its operating divisions were profitable and continue to benefit from limited exposure to the construction sector. It added that recovery was evident in the level of construction activity.

### Interim slip at Tunstall

SHARES in Tunstall Group fell 22p to 150.5p after pre-tax profits for the six months to March 31 fell from £4.1 million to £2.9 million. It warned the market on prospects for the second half. The interim dividend rises from 1.68p to 1.85p, reflecting what directors say is "confidence in the future performance of the group". Earnings fall from 8.5p to 5.6p. The electronic equipment group says a major improvement in market conditions in the short term is unlikely.

### Lookers moves ahead

LOOKERS, the Manchester motor distributor, raised pre-tax profits 27 per cent to £4 million in the six months to March 31 on sales up from £210 million to £290 million. Earnings fell from 6.7p to 6.2p. The interim dividend rises from 1.6p to 1.8p. Borrowings have fallen from 50 per cent to 43 per cent of shareholders' funds. Ken Martindale, the chairman, said: "We are now in a position to resume our growth" after the reorganisation following the Charles Hurst acquisition.

**THE TIMES Crème '97**  
11-13 JUNE 1997  
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL SHOW

Changing Technology — The Times Crème '97 IT Seminars and Pavilion, organised by Hemsley Fraser

The Industrial Society Career and Personal Development Seminars

Career Village and Recruitment Briefings

Celebrity Talks and Interviews

Hundreds of Exhibitors covering Conferences & Meetings, Technology, Corporate Hospitality, Business Travel, Office Products, Recruitment & Training

The Executive Woman Fashion Shows

FOR SEMINAR AND REGISTRATION DETAILS, PLEASE CALL 01923 801050

Venue: Olympia 2, Hammersmith Road, London W14

Opening Hours: 10am-5pm

FREE ADMISSION





## Further application a fresh asylum claim

**Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department. Ex parte Boybeyi**

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Ward

[Judgment May 14]

When dealing with applications for asylum, the Home Secretary, having rejected one claim by an applicant, was bound to treat a further claim by that applicant based on new, apparently credible evidence of which a favourable view could be taken as a fresh claim for asylum. That issue, against which decision the applicant had no right of appeal, was separate from the second issue the Home Secretary had to decide, namely whether the claim should be accepted or rejected and which gave the applicant the right of appeal to a special adjudicator.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the Home Secretary from the judgment of Mr Justice Sedley on May 24, 1997, in proceedings for judicial review quashing a decision of the Home Secretary refusing to consider new evidence produced by the applicant, Coksun Boybeyi, as a fresh claim for asylum.

Mr Ian Ashford-Thom for the secretary of state; Miss Christa Fielden and Mrs Joanne Rothwell for the applicant.

LOD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the question was whether the Home Secretary's refusal to treat a claim based on new evidence as a fresh claim for asylum ought to be reviewed. Wednesday grounds (1998) 1 KB 229; see *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Onibio* [1997] 1 AC 514, April 2, 1996; (1996) QB 708 and R

**v Secretary of State for the Home Department. Ex parte Ravichandran** (The Times May 13, 1996; [1996] 1 M 418).

The applicant was a Turkish Kurd who had applied for asylum on his arrival on March 14, 1994. That application was refused, the special adjudicator not dissenting from the Home Secretary's view that an arrival warrant produced by the applicant is a sufficient support of his claim.

In April 1996, after directions for the applicant's removal had been given, his solicitors informed an immigration officer that they had received from Turkey a faxed copy of another warrant for his arrest.

That warrant, purported to have been issued on March 14, 1996, in respect of an offence committed in 1992, described the applicant as being "a member of an illegal organisation and taking part in the organisation's activities".

The Home Secretary in a letter of June 14, 1996, refused to reconsider the applicant's claim stating that he did not consider that the information submitted amounted to a fresh claim for asylum.

The judge stated that the question was whether it was open to the Home Secretary to treat the new evidence produced by the applicant as anything other than a fresh claim for asylum.

Having examined earlier authorities principally *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Khawaja* [1994] 1 AC 741; *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Bigodwari* [1997] 1 AC 514, he answered it in the negative.

The judge summarised the applicant's case in four propositions accepted by the Home Secretary:

1. The fundamental obligation, explained by Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls in *Ex parte Onibio*, was to give proper consideration to every potentially genuine asylum claim, even where the applicant had previously made such a claim without success.

2. Rule 346 of the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules (1994 HC 365) excluded mere repeat applications.

3. Where there was evidence of a relevant and substantial change in circumstances (rule 346), or where new evidence was adduced which could not reasonably have been advanced earlier, an obligation arose to entertain the newly made claim whatever the grounds for rejection of the previous one, unless the new evidence (a) was not intrinsically credible, or (b) was not capable, even if accepted, of producing a different outcome.

4. Those being the policy and objects of the legislation and rules of June 14, 1996, refused to reconsider the applicant's claim stating that he did not consider that the information submitted amounted to a fresh claim for asylum.

The judge was correct in holding that the Home Secretary's conclusion that the application did not constitute a fresh claim was untenable.

The applicant's claim was based on new evidence, essentially on the copy of the second arrest warrant which was adduced which could not reasonably have been advanced earlier, an obligation arose to entertain the newly made claim whatever the grounds for rejection of the previous one, unless the new evidence (a) was not intrinsically credible, or (b) was not capable, even if accepted, of producing a different outcome.

Bingham in *Onibio* (at pp 783-4) as to "whether, comparing the new claim with that earlier rejected, and excluding material which the claimant could reasonably have been expected to rely on in the earlier claim, the new claim sufficiently differed from the earlier claim to admit it as a realistic prospect that a favourable view could be taken of the new claim despite the unfavourable conclusion reached on the earlier claim."

Those observations of Sir Thomas Bingham had to be read in the context of everything he said at p 783 under the heading "a fresh claim" including his acceptance of the proposition that, if the fresh claim depended on new evidence, then it had to satisfy tests analogous to those in *Ladd v Marshall* [1954] 1 WLR 1489 of previous unavailability, significance and credibility.

The judge was correct in holding that the Home Secretary's conclusion that the application did not constitute a fresh claim was untenable.

The applicant's claim was based on new evidence, essentially on the copy of the second arrest warrant which was adduced which could not reasonably have been advanced earlier, an obligation arose to entertain the newly made claim whatever the grounds for rejection of the previous one, unless the new evidence (a) was not intrinsically credible, or (b) was not capable, even if accepted, of producing a different outcome.

First, whether the new claim was indeed a fresh claim for asylum; second, if so, whether it ought to be accepted or rejected.

However, in broad agreement with the judge's statement of the series of questions for the Home Secretary, it was not in every respect in accordance with the test proposed by Sir Thomas Bingham.

subsequent inquiry whether it was in fact credible.

If the letter had been directed to the second question, it would probably have been unimpeachable. It was not, however, a permissible method of addressing the first question, namely whether a fresh application had been made.

It was understandable that the dual role of the Home Secretary should, in such circumstances, have become merged into one. But, as the judge rightly emphasised, the applicant's lack of a right of appeal to an adjudicator against an unfavourable determination of the first question made it essential that it should be kept separate from the second.

Mr Ashford-Thom submitted that the Home Secretary was not bound simply to accept the applicant's evidence as it stood and that he was, for the purposes of deciding the first question, entitled to make his own assessment.

The judge had erred in law in dismissing both a plaintiffs' claim and a defendants' counterclaim, on the apparent conclusion that, when parties had acted with reasonable expectation, the court was obliged to hear the case, whatever difficulties as to proof concerned, but could decline to hear the case where the parties to the litigation had been guilty of inordinate and inexcusable delay, even when that delay had not caused the difficulties before the court.

Having found that the delay was not causative of serious prejudice, or of the impossibility of a fair trial of the action, the judge was bound by *Birkett v James* [1978] 2 AC 297, 318-21, and should not have dismissed the claims.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the defendants, the Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce, against the order of Mr Recorder Kalpits, QC, sitting as an Official Referee, on January 8, 1996, dismissing the claims of the second plaintiffs, Ulster Meats Ltd, for £10 million and the counterclaim of the defendants for £2.6 million, in respect of transactions governed by the common agricultural policy of the European Community.

Mr Kenneth Parker, QC and Mr Rhodri Thomson for the defendants; Mr Brian Lescow, QC, and Mr Nicholas Green for Ulster Meats.

LOD JUSTICE HENRY said that the defendants were the statutory body responsible for the

## Delay caused no prejudice to conduct of case

Their Lordships declined that invitation, both on the facts of the case, where it did not arise, as there was an abuse of process under the first limb of *Birkett v James* and because the respondents were not represented.

Meanwhile the court was bound by *Birkett v James*. Again, the delay had to be causative; see *Trill v Socher* [1993] 1 WLR 1379, 1399.

The judge like the Court of Appeal was bound by both *Birkett v James* and *Trill v Socher* and accordingly should not have dismissed the claim and counter-claim. It was never contended before the court that the parties' conduct amounted to an abuse of process. Accordingly, the judge had been wrong in law to dismiss the claims.

Mr Parker correctly pointed out that the logic of the judge's stated position was that where parties had acted with reasonable expectation, the court was obliged to hear the case, whatever difficulties as to proof concerned, but the court could decline the case where the parties to the litigation had been guilty of inordinate and inexcusable delay, even when that delay had not caused the difficulties before the court.

Having found that the delay was not causative of serious prejudice, or of the impossibility of a fair trial of the action, the judge was bound by *Birkett v James* and should not have dismissed the claims.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the defendants, the Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce, against the order of Mr Recorder Kalpits, QC, sitting as an Official Referee, on January 8, 1996, dismissing the claims of the second plaintiffs, Ulster Meats Ltd, for £10 million and the counterclaim of the defendants for £2.6 million, in respect of transactions governed by the common agricultural policy of the European Community.

Mr Kenneth Parker, QC and Mr Rhodri Thomson for the defendants; Mr Brian Lescow, QC, and Mr Nicholas Green for Ulster Meats.

LOD JUSTICE HENRY said that the defendants were the statutory body responsible for the

## Closed

**Regina v Croydon London Borough Council**

Before Lord Justice Brooke and Lord Justice Waller

[Judgment May 22]

There was no further category of cases which would allow reinstatement of actions automatically struck out beyond the two identified in *Bunnister v SGB plc* (The Times May 21) so that a reasonable misinterpretation of the rules

resulting in a plaintiff missing the guillotine deadline did not oblige the court to face a strict application of the requirement that she prosecute her action with reasonable diligence.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when allowing for other reasons the appeal of Maria Romano against an order of Judge Byrt, QC, at the Mayor's and City of London Court on May

29, 1996 refusing to reinstate her personal injury action against Croydon London Borough Council.

Mr Daniel Serota, QC, for the appellant; Mr John Norman for the council.

LOD JUSTICE BROOKE, giving the judgment of the court, said that before applying the guidelines for category 1 cases in *Bannister v SGB*, it was first necessary to

consider whether the case should fall into some different category of reinstatement cases.

Their Lordships did not consider that the case fell into category 2 which required her advisers to have been genuinely and reasonably misled. Her solicitor took a wrong, if understandable, view of the law. That could not be equated with being genuinely and reasonably misled.

An attempt was made to argue that there should be some third category of reinstatement cases into which Miss Romano's case should be fitted: in other words that there should be a category in which a court might allow reinstatement where the plaintiff or her advisers had missed the guillotine deadline because of a reasonable misinterpretation of the rules, without their being obliged to face a strict application of the requirement in *Bannister* category 1 that she should have prosecuted her action with reasonable diligence.

Their Lordships could find no direction in the summing up in which the jury were told how they were to deal with that list. The absence of such a direction was a material non-direction.

In *Bannister* the court rejected the notion of there being a third

category of a rather different kind, that is, where it could be alleged to be inequitable not to allow reinstatement by virtue of the way the parties had conducted themselves.

But in truth the argument for either that third category of for the third category now being suggested came down to an attempt to persuade the court that in some cases although the plaintiff could not satisfy the category 2 test of being misled, his excuse for missing the deadline should be considered powerful enough to make it necessary for her to have to satisfy the category 1 test of having prosecuted her action with reasonable diligence.

An attempt was made to argue that there should be some third category of reinstatement cases into which Miss Romano's case should be fitted: in other words that there should be a category in which a court might allow reinstatement where the plaintiff or her advisers had missed the guillotine deadline because of a reasonable misinterpretation of the rules, without their being obliged to face a strict application of the requirement in *Bannister* category 1 that she should have prosecuted her action with reasonable diligence.

In *Bannister* the court did not think it right to contemplate the creation of a third category of cases. Their Lordships did not consider that a mistaken, albeit understandable, interpretation of the rules by the plaintiff's own advisers was any better candidate for a third category.

Solicitors: Anthony Gold and Michael Muirhead, Brixton; Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.

LOD JUSTICE HENRY said that the defendants were the statutory body responsible for the

## Drugs paraphernalia direction

**Regina v Lovelock**

Where documentary material was admitted in evidence as drugs paraphernalia the judge had to be particularly careful to direct the jury that before they used such material they must be sure that it was demonstrably relevant not only to past dealing in drugs but also as to a future intention to supply.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice McCowan, Mr Justice Ognall and Mr Justice Sedley) so held on May 8 in

allowing an appeal by William Lovelock, against conviction on December 3, 1996, of two counts of possessing a class A drug with intent to supply and two counts of possessing a class B drug with intent to supply, for which he was sentenced to three years imprisonment.

MR JUSTICE OGNALL said that the cases of *R v Gordon* [1995] Crim LR 142; *R v Grant* [1995] Crim LR 715; *R v Smith* (1995) Crim LR 440; and *R v Okusanya* [1995] Crim LR 941

dealt with the admission in evidence of sums of money found in the possession of the accused but there was no doubt that the requirement for a careful direction in such cases applied also to documentary evidence such as the sheet of jottings which was admitted in the instant case.

Their Lordships could find no direction in the summing up in which the jury were told how they were to deal with that list. The absence of such a direction was a material non-direction.

In *Bannister* the court rejected the notion of there being a third

category of a rather different kind, that is, where it could be alleged to be inequitable not to allow reinstatement by virtue of the way the parties had conducted themselves.

But in truth the argument for either that third category of for the third category now being suggested came down to an attempt to persuade the court that in some cases although the plaintiff could not satisfy the category 2 test of being misled, his excuse for missing the deadline should be considered powerful enough to make it necessary for her to have to satisfy the category 1 test of having prosecuted her action with reasonable diligence.

An attempt was made to argue that there should be some third category of reinstatement cases into which Miss Romano's case should be fitted: in other words that there should be a category in which a court might allow reinstatement where the plaintiff or her advisers had missed the guillotine deadline because of a reasonable misinterpretation of the rules, without their being obliged to face a strict application of the requirement in *Bannister* category 1 that she should have prosecuted her action with reasonable diligence.

In *Bannister* the court did not think it right to contemplate the creation of a third category of cases. Their Lordships did not consider that a mistaken, albeit understandable, interpretation of the rules by the plaintiff's own advisers was any better candidate for a third category.

Solicitors: Anthony Gold and Michael Muirhead, Brixton; Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.

LOD JUSTICE HENRY said that the defendants were the statutory body responsible for the

## Scots Law Report June 5 1997 Court of Session

## Foetus has no independent legal existence or actionable rights

**Kelly v Kelly**

Before the Lord Justice-Clerk (Lord Cullen), Lord McCluskey and Lord Wyfe

[Judgment May 24]

To cause a foetus to be aborted was not a civil wrong that was actionable at the instance of the foetus.

The Second Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session so held, refusing a reclaiming motion by Mr James Kelly against an interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary recalling an interim interdict granted against the estranged wife of the petitioner, Mrs Lynn Fal-

coner or Kelly, from instructing, consenting or submitting to a termination of pregnancy.

Mr Colin Sutherland, QC and Mr Daniel Serota for the petitioner; Mrs Anne Smith, QC and Mr Brian Fitzpatrick for the respondent.

THE LORD JUSTICE-CLERK, delivering the opinion of the court, narrated the effect of the Abortion Act 1967 and went on to say that its provisions were not of themselves determinative of the question of whether carrying out an abortion might violate any person's legal

rights. The main arguments which Mr Sutherland presented broke down into five points:

1. An action of damages lay at the instance of a child's guardian, including the father of a legitimate child, in respect of wrongful injury sustained by that child while in utero; see *Elliot v Joyce* [1993] 2 SC (H) 57; *Hamilton v Five Health Board* [1993] 3C 369 and compare *B v Islington Health Authority* [1991] 1 QB 638; *De Mertel v Merton and Sutton Health Authority* [1993] QB 204.

2. Such an injury was actionable at the instance of the child, acting through his or her guardian, and not at the instance of the mother as an individual: see section 2 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

3. If such an injury created an actionable wrong, it had to be a wrong not merely sounding in damages after the event but also a wrong capable of prevention by interdict in advance of the wrong occurring: see *Burn-Murdock Interdict* pl.

4. In that connection, the wrong which was capable of being interdicted could not be confined to one which was only capable of causing injury to, and not the death of the child.

5. In regard to



■ FILM 1

Bruce Willis flounders in the aimless futuristic flab of Luc Besson's *The Fifth Element*



■ FILM 2

*Crash* proves to be a chilly exercise in perversity, but not worth all the outrage



THE TIMES  
ARTS



■ FILM 3

A hijacked plane, lashings of violence: *Con Air* offers a pulverising night out



■ FILM 4

Melancholy Finnish humour comes from Aki Kaurismaki in the tender *Drifting Clouds*

CINEMA: Geoff Brown sees the French director Luc Besson pour \$90 million into the black hole of *The Fifth Element*

**A**t the Cannes press conference for *The Fifth Element*, Bruce Willis said he enjoyed working at Pinewood studios, where Luc Besson's mammoth film was made under a thick veil of secrecy. But our catering came in for sharp criticism, especially the doughnuts.

It would be wrong to attribute the film's faults to Pinewood's food trolley. Even the best chef in the world would be powerless against Besson's incoherent English-language script, the less-than-special effects and the spectacle of impoverished imaginations running riot. Besson, the French wonderboy of *Subway* and *La Femme Nikita*, first thought of this subject as a teenager in the mid-1970s. Time has done nothing to improve the story's inconsequential and derivative tone.

Cars weave through the concrete canyons of 23rd-century Manhattan. A malevolent planet threatens Earth with destruction. Bruce Willis swears a lot in an orange singlet. Fearsome creatures shaped like metallic armadillos mass for business. Carrot-topped Milla Jovovich escapes from her genetic engineering lab to cavort in bandages and speak a language used in the Universe, so we are told, "before time was time". Gary Oldman, as the villainous Zorg, struts appallingly with a false leg, a southern accent and half of Hitler's hairdo. Ian Holm acts gormic and wise, while Chris Tucker screams his head off as a DJ queen on a cruise ship circling our space.

During this carnival of 1990s camp and comic-strip fungus, audiences are forced to play Hunt the Plot. It can be found, just about. There are four ancient totems representing fire, earth, wind and water. Willis and Holm fight to control them, the only known weapons against the malevolent forces. But Besson obscures this narrative nub with so much disjointed blather that much potential drama is lost. A veteran of *12 Monkeys*, Willis takes the foolishness in his stride; the work of other cast members ranges from the tantalising (Jovovich) to the embarrassing (Oldman and Tucker).

**T**he film also disappoints visually. Gaumont, the veteran company whose origins stretch back to 1895, stumped up \$90 million, a French record, to realise Besson's dream. The most glamorous assistants were chosen: costumes by Jean Paul Gaultier, design concepts by graphic novelists Moebius and Jean-Claude Mézières. But the Manhattan aerial views have a Toyland ring: the flying taxis look far too flimsy. Even when Besson's technical batonnements deliver the goods, the jumble of props and irrelevancies fatigue and irk.

On to *Crash* which, like most of David Cronenberg's adventurous films, would have passed through cinemas largely unnoticed were it not for the ban by Westminster Council, and the orchestrated howls of outrage from our self-appointed moral guardians. Now there is a large body of people eager to discover what the fuss is about.

So what will they find? A striking film, but one cold as



Braces? Check. Ratty old vest? Check. Weapon set for blowing large holes in the scenery? Check. Bruce Willis brings his own special charms to the overblown futuristic melodrama of *The Fifth Element*

# No real need to watch this space

ice so tightly controlled in image and word, so aloof from ordinary life and its characters' thoughts, that it defies audience involvement and ultimately enjoyment. Certainly it never begins to titillate, for all the sex and violence.

Deborah Kara Unger begins proceedings by rubbing her breasts against an aircraft. But it is cars, especially crashed cars, that engineer the ultimate sexual thrill. A collision involving James Spader (Unger's husband) and Holly Hunter provides an introduction into Elias Koteas's society of crash fanatics, who stage recreations of notorious accidents, like the one that finished James Dean. Koteas's aim, he says, is to use modern technology to reshape the human body. They make a fetish of their wounds. They make novel use of a car wash. Other things I cannot begin to describe.

Cronenberg did not need J.G. Ballard's visionary novel of 1973 to suggest these obsessions. His own work shows a parallel fascination with a dehumanised future and sex fused with technology. No matter how bizarre the spectacle, Cronenberg himself is completely at ease as he controls the subdued colour palette, choreographs the camera's slow glide over



Kari Vaananen and Kati Outinen in the Finnish minimalist *Drifting Clouds*

Toronto's freeways, and tapers the actors' speech to a hush.

Indeed the glacial, rigidly stylised mood is so omnipresent that it grows to swamp any element of drama. Ballard described his book as "a warning against that brutal, erotic and overtly realist that beckons more and more persuasively to us from the margins of the technological landscape". But Cronenberg numbs the audience so much that wider issues are hard to grasp; ultimately, the film becomes one damn car crash after another.

Con Air offers the "acceptable" face of movie violence: mammoth explosions, grinding serial killers, planes and cars colliding. Producer Jerry Bruckheimer is the master of the style, and his latest product will not disappoint anyone

who goes to the cinema to be pulverised. A lumbering plane ferrying America's nastiest prisoners is hijacked by John Malkovich, alias Cyrus the Virus, who plans to fly them to freedom. Nicolas Cage, a parolee en route to domestic bliss, plays along with Cyrus while trying to alert the good guys on the ground. Actors and dialogue are smartly attuned; but they are eaten up by the billowing propane fire, the hurtling debris, and every

rollercoaster stunt that Bruckheimer and his British director, Simon West, can imagine. The film is ferocious in its attack on human sensibilities. I had to attend Evensong at St Paul's to recuperate.

Aki Kaurismaki, probably, will not be going to see *Con Air*.

"I have no esteem for films in which people are slaughtered with guns in the name of entertainment," he has said.

"If one starts to shoot and play with explosives, nothing will ever be enough. But if the film is pitched on a minimalist level, even the sound of a cough becomes dramatic."

Not every film by the Finnish chronicler of miserable lives proves his point, but the

wonderful *Drifting Clouds* does. This tale of a married couple fighting the recession features his trademark melancholy and absurdist humour. It is also unusually suffused with tenderness and stylised colours (sky blue predominating). There is even an optimistic ending.

You want the best for these characters, buffeted by fate and economics. There is Kati Outinen, hostess at a restaurant repossessed by the bank; there is her husband (Kari Vaananen), who loses his job driving trams; there is their dog. All three face hardship with long, brave faces in dismal rooms given a fairy-tale glow by the bold, simple colours. A lovely film; see it.

**The Fifth Element**  
Empire, PG, 127 mins  
Flabby sci-fi epic  
from Luc Besson

**Crash**

ABC Shaftesbury Ave  
18, 100 mins  
Buckle up for  
Cronenberg's  
controversial movie

**Con Air**

Odeon West End  
15, 103 mins

Pulverising escapades  
in a hijacked plane

**Drifting Clouds**

Metro, PG, 96 mins

Minimalist delight  
from Finland

**Men, Women: A User's Manual**

Curzon Mayfair  
12, 122 mins

The world according  
to Claude Lelouch

**Alive and Kicking**

ABC Shaftesbury Ave  
15, 100 mins

Sympathetic AIDS drama

As for the media hysteria and the consequences for impressionable youth, there seem two likely lessons to be drawn from *Crash*: wear a seat belt when driving, and don't see any more Cronenberg films. The first is good advice, the second not, although this extreme and chilly exercise in perversity is hardly the director's best advertisement.

Con Air offers the "acceptable" face of movie violence: mammoth explosions, grinding serial killers, planes and cars colliding. Producer Jerry Bruckheimer is the master of the style, and his latest product will not disappoint anyone

who goes to the cinema to be pulverised.

A lumbering plane ferrying America's nastiest prisoners is hijacked by John Malkovich, alias Cyrus the Virus, who plans to fly them to freedom. Nicolas Cage, a parolee en route to domestic bliss, plays along with Cyrus while trying to alert the good guys on the ground. Actors and dialogue are smartly attuned; but they are eaten up by the billowing propane fire, the hurtling debris, and every

rollercoaster stunt that Bruckheimer and his British director, Simon West, can imagine. The film is ferocious in its attack on human sensibilities. I had to attend Evensong at St Paul's to recuperate.

Aki Kaurismaki, probably, will not be going to see *Con Air*.

"I have no esteem for films in which people are slaughtered with guns in the name of entertainment," he has said.

"If one starts to shoot and play with explosives, nothing will ever be enough. But if the film is pitched on a minimalist level, even the sound of a cough becomes dramatic."

Not every film by the Finnish chronicler of miserable lives proves his point, but the

**PATTI LUPOONE**  
IS A STAR PLAYING A STAR  
...A PERFORMANCE THAT HAS  
STANDING OVATION  
WRITTEN ALL OVER IT

DAILY TELEGRAPH

"SHE IS THE JEWEL IN  
THE WEST END'S  
CROWN"

DAILY MAIL



**Maria Callas**  
MASTER CLASS  
THE INTERNATIONAL  
HIT PLAY

LUPONE'S PERFORMANCE IS  
ALL FIRE, POWER, PASSION  
AND SUPERBLY TIMED MALICE

A HIT, A HIT,  
A SURE FIRE  
HIT

SUNDAY TIMES

BEST PLAY  
1996 TONY AWARDS

BOOK OFFICE 0171 580 5000  
CREDIT CARD 0171 580 5454  
FAX 0171 580 5554  
QUEENS THEATRE

"Full of GRACE, HEART, GOOD HUMOUR  
and WONDERFUL PERFORMANCES"



**Stunning sci-fi'**

Every week, young film fans discuss some of the latest releases...

**THE FIFTH ELEMENT**  
Tim Thornton, 21: A stunning sci-fi adventure. Ian Holm was excellent.

Damian Samsel, 20: The amazing special effects cannot quite conceal the lack of a decent plot.

Sarah Crook, 18: Gary Oldman was exotic. Leslie Isiah Thomas, 18: The set design and Jean Paul Gaultier's costumes help to

create an extraordinary vision of the future.

**CRASH**  
Tim: An erotic but neurotic film that doesn't deserve all the hype.

Damian: A pile-up of tedious nonsense.

Sarah: Pushes film art into the mainstream.

Leslie: Forget *Playboy*, it's

*Exchange and Mart* for me from now on.

**CON AIR**  
Tim: Madness, mayhem and

murder abound in this year's first big summer release.

Damian: Hannibal Lecter meets Freddy Laker in this entertaining and explosive action flick.

Sarah: John Malkovich is supreme as the gang leader.

Leslie: A paint-by-numbers action thriller.

**SNAP VERDICT**



## ■ CHOICE 1

London debut for the Mark Morris Dance Group with Handel's *L'Allegro*  
VENUE: Tonight at the Coliseum



## ■ CHOICE 2

Celebrity cellist Natalie Clein offers works by Beethoven, Bach and Brahms  
VENUE: Tonight at St George's in Bristol



## ■ NEW VIDEOS

Bombs away: scientific ingenuity and aerial derring-do are captured in *The Dam Busters*



## ■ NEW CDS

Herbert von Karajan's early recordings in Vienna are reissued on a new boxed set

**LONDON**  
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA The company, in association with Dance Umbrella, presents Mark Morris's production of Handel's *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, which combines music and dance to illustrate Milton's poetry. Performed by the Mark Morris Dance Group, it includes the ENO orchestra, choir and soloists. Conducted by Jane Glover. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-832 3800). Opens tonight. 7.30pm. Then Sat, Sun 8pm. June 9 and 10. 7.30pm, mat Sat. 2.30pm. (5)

HONG KONG FILM WEEK Barcian Cinema, in association with the Chinese Film Society, commemorates the tenth anniversary of the return of Hong Kong to China on June 30 with a season of eight films from Hong Kong. The programme includes a tribute to the director of *House of Flying Daggers*, the *Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment*, Sir Simon Rattle performs Schubert's *Death Symphony* and Beethoven's *Eroica*. South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) (5)

## ELSEWHERE

BRISTOL The cellist Natalie Clein performs J.S. Bach's Suite No 1 in G for Solo Cello, Beethoven's Sonata in C and Brahms' Sonata No 1 in F. Wm J. Hall, 20 St George's, Bristol, BS1 (0117-923 7000). Opens tonight. 7.30pm. (5)

GUILDFORD George Dalaras gives a solo performance of Robert Sprea's

## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

meting block of ice above a grave of red earth slowly turns to mud. BAC, Leverhulme Hall, Belsize St, NW1 (0171-380 2000). Open Sat, Sun, 8pm. Until June 15

SOUTH BANK SYMPHONIES Michael Tilson, piano, directs the Philharmonia Orchestra in Haydn's Symphony No 93 and Piano Concerto in D. BAC, Leverhulme Hall, Belsize St, NW1 (0171-380 2000). Open Sat, Sun, 8pm. Until June 15

BRISTOL The cellist Natalie Clein performs J.S. Bach's Suite No 1 in G for Solo Cello, Beethoven's Sonata in C and Brahms' Sonata No 1 in F. Wm J. Hall, 20 St George's, Bristol, BS1 (0117-923 7000). Opens tonight. 7.30pm. (5)

THE 7 STAGES OF GRIEVING Part of *Life From A Stage*, an unforgettable performance by Deborah Maffman celebrating the Aboriginal heritage. A

BEACH BLANKET BABYLON Long-running extravaganza from San Francisco plays 16 performances here as part of the BAC Covent Garden Festival. "Snow White" travels the world and meets all the famous and not-so-famous people. Said to be the biggest hats seen on stage. Unicorn Arts, Great Newport Street, WC1 (0171-312 1992). Tue and Wed 8pm. Fri and Sat 8pm. Sun 3pm. Until June 7

THE CENSOR Transfer from the Fibroth through Anthony Neilson's tough and sexy scenes about an inhibited film censor and an exhibitionistic film-maker. Royal Court Theatre (Duchess of York's Theatre), Lower Ground, Sloane St, SW1 (0171-585 5000). Opens tonight. 7pm. Then Tues-Sun, 7.30pm; mat Sun 3pm. Until June 14

FLYING WEST Tealwood Theatre Company in *Paul Cézanne's Still Life*, set in the all-black town of Necessarius. Not for the faint hearted. Lucy, Duffield, Cheltenham, WC1 (0171-632 8270). Previews begin tonight. 7.30pm. Opens June 10. 7.30pm. Then Tues-Sun, 7.30pm; mat Sun June 28. 2.30pm. Until June 28

KTFAN (THE VILLAGE) Part of *Life From A Stage*, an unforgettable performance by Deborah Maffman (author of *Grief*), set in a 1940s Palestine just about to become the State of Israel. Performed in Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English

## NEW RELEASES

ABSOLUTE POWER (15) The American President is involved in a murder, and burglar Carl Eashwood knows it. Enjoyable political Eastwood drama. Alan Baker Street (0171-632 9772) Tottenham Court Road (0171-536 6148) Clapham Picture House (0171-235 3006) Odeon, Kensington (0181-315 4214) Leicester Square (0181-315 4215) Mayfair (0181-315 4220) Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) UCI Whitley (0171-889 9900) Virgin Chelsea (0171-332 5098)

BIG NIGHT (15) Tribulations at an Indian restaurant. Thoughtful drama, with Stanley Tucci, Tony Shalhoub and Ian Holm. Royal Exchange, London (0171-737 4043) Richmond (0181-332 0303) Riccy (0171-737 2121) Warner West End (0171-437 4343)

GRIMM (18) Adds up to a bit of fun for the whole family. Lucy, Duffield, Cheltenham, WC1 (0171-632 8270). Previews begin tonight. 7.30pm. Then Tues-Sun, 7.30pm; mat Sun June 28. 2.30pm. Until June 28

THE ENGLISH PATIENT (15) Magnificent film. Judi Dench's shoulders with passion for Kristin Scott Thomas. Epic, intelligent, though not quite with all the grace. Director, Anthony Minghella

THE SPITFIRE GIRL (12) Over-stuffed, worthy drama centred around a

## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only

■ Some seats available

■ Seats at all prices

Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0171-741 2311) Thurs-Sat, 7.30pm. Until June 7

KING LEAR Ian Holm, Michael Gambon, the performance of a lifetime. Richard Eyre's lavishly produced Royal Court Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (0171-923 2250). Tonight Sat, Mon, Tues, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sun, 3pm. Until June 14

LOVE ME SLENDER Jenny Funnell plays the opposite at the Turbridge Wells "Still for Life" during club in the Royal Exchange, Covent Garden, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-632 8270). Previews begin tonight. 7.30pm. Opens June 9. 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sun, 3pm. Thurs, 7.30pm. Until June 12

CRIMSON FEATHERS Peter Arne, the author of *Death of a Salesman*, directs *Death of a Salesman* at the Old Vic, Vargas, where participants are led singly into a labyrinth for mysterious encounters. Old Vic, Southwark, SE1

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

## CINEMA GUIDE

Geff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (●) on release across the country

restaurant in Maine. With Alison Elliott, Ben Burtt and Bill Patton. Warner West End (0171-437 4343)

TURBULENCE (18) Stellar killer (Ray Liotta) attacks 747s. Raging sexual乱 of *James Bond*. Robert Butler

TRAILER (15) (0171-434 0031) Warner (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

DONNIE BRASCO (18) Adds up to a bit of fun for the whole family. Lucy, Duffield, Cheltenham, WC1 (0171-737 4043) Alan Baker Street (0171-632 9772) Tottenham Court Road (0171-536 6148) Clapham Picture House (0171-235 3006) Odeon, Kensington (0181-315 4214) Leicester Square (0181-315 4215) Mayfair (0181-315 4220) Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) UCI Whitley (0171-889 9900) Virgin Chelsea (0171-332 5098)

THE ENGLISH PATIENT (15) Magnificent film. Judi Dench's shoulders with passion for Kristin Scott Thomas. Epic, intelligent, though not quite with all the grace. Director, Anthony Minghella

THE SPITFIRE GIRL (12) Over-stuffed, worthy drama centred around a

standing ovation. Other stories in the programme are Swan's *Balkan*, Master of Ceremonies and Dillon's *Death of a Riddle Man*. Young Vic, Arches, Shoreditch, EC2 (0171-400 0000). Tonight and tomorrow. 8pm. (5)

SHERIFF Rosemary Lee and the Balinese troupe present *Charged*, a dynamic fusion of dance and live music, directed by Simon Whitehead. Gill Clarke and Lee cast. Part of the Danceworks festival. Curve, Northcote Street (0114-275 9922). Tonight, 8pm. (5)

■ LONDON GALLERIES

Anthony d'Offay, De Re Metallica (0171-489 4100) British Museum, London, WC1 (0171-323 8000). Open Sat, Sun, 8pm. Until June 15

SOUTH BANK SYMPHONIES Michael Tilson, piano, directs the Philharmonia Orchestra in Haydn's Symphony No 93 and Piano Concerto in D. BAC, Leverhulme Hall, Belsize St, NW1 (0171-380 2000). Open Sat, Sun, 8pm. Until June 15

■ NEW ON VIDEO

THE DAM BUSTERS Warner, U, 1954

BRITAIN'S smash hit of the mid-1950s, the story of Barnes Wallis's bouncing bombs and the destruction of German dams. While Eric Coates's march catches the sounds of victory, the script by *Journey's End* author R.C. Sheriff effectively dwells on the anxieties and setbacks of scientific research. Decently filmed with striking aerial footage and one of Michael Redgrave's best screen performances as the dogged, eccentric inventor.

## ■ THE LAST OF THE HIGH KINGS

First Independent, 15, 1996

HUMANE coming-of-age story set in Ireland in the summer of 1977, when Dublin rocked to the music of Thin Lizzy and Elvis Presley died. New director David Keating never falls into a rut as he explores the sufferings of school-leaver Frankie (American import Jared Leto), with his whimsical mum, absent father, fear of exam results and bouts of puppy love. Nothing here to raise the roof, but it is always pleasant to watch. A rental release.

## ■ QUADROPHENIA

PolyGram, 18, 1979

ZESTY saga of men alienation, based on the Who's concept album, set against the Mods' and Rockers' seaside battles of 1964. Not everything survives close inspection: the further Phil Daniels's sense of rejection advances, the hollower Franc Roddam's film grows. But the re-creation of domestic hell, youth's tribal behaviour and the Brighton riots are vividly captured through Brian Tufano's camera lens. The video release includes extra shots

## ■ THE DAM BUSTERS

Warner, U, 1954

BRITAIN'S smash hit of the mid-1950s: the story of Barnes Wallis's bouncing bombs and the destruction of German dams. While Eric Coates's march catches the sounds of victory, the script by *Journey's End* author R.C. Sheriff effectively dwells on the anxieties and setbacks of scientific research. Decently filmed with striking aerial footage and one of Michael Redgrave's best screen performances as the dogged, eccentric inventor.

## ■ THE LAST OF THE HIGH KINGS

First Independent, 15, 1996

HUMANE coming-of-age story set in Ireland in the summer of 1977, when Dublin rocked to the music of Thin Lizzy and Elvis Presley died. New director David Keating never falls into a rut as he explores the sufferings of school-leaver Frankie (American import Jared Leto), with his whimsical mum, absent father, fear of exam results and bouts of puppy love. Nothing here to raise the roof, but it is always pleasant to watch. A rental release.

## ■ QUADROPHENIA

PolyGram, 18, 1979

ZESTY saga of men alienation, based on the Who's concept album, set against the Mods' and Rockers' seaside battles of 1964. Not everything survives close inspection: the further Phil Daniels's sense of rejection advances, the hollower Franc Roddam's film grows. But the re-creation of domestic hell, youth's tribal behaviour and the Brighton riots are vividly captured through Brian Tufano's camera lens. The video release includes extra shots

compiled from photographs taken on the set.

## ■ TRUE BLUE

Film Four, 15, 1996

REMEMBER the university boat race mutiny of 1987? Ferdinand Fairfax's film is not the one to bring it rushing back to life, for all the modest excitement of the race itself. Groomsmanship is the issue here, and the world-class Americans force-fed into

the Oxford crew do not understand the amateur spirit. Belgian actor Johan Leysen plays the coach; Daniel Topolski. Watching this little film striving to be big and failing is a grey, damp experience. A rental release.

## ■ L'AMORE MOLESTO

Arrow, 15, 1996

THE second feature of theatre director Mario Martone is an edgy and eloquent psychological puzzler set in

his home town, Naples. It seems an alien place to the heroine, played by Anna Bonaiuto, who is trying to cope with her mother's bizarre death (washed up on shore, wearing only a red brassiere). The cameraman plays inventively with colour as the past erupts into the present, and the fog behind the family's history clears. A rewarding film.

GEOFF BROWN

## NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Rollicking Chopin; meticulous Mozart; exhilarating Viennese whirl

## CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

## ■ CHOPIN

Chamber music

Nagy/Szabó/Várjón

Hungaroton HCD 31651/★

£12.49

AN EXCITING new piano trio who will make their London debut in September uncover some less frequently played Chopin in this recital of the Cello Sonata, G minor Trio and Grand Duo Concertante. The violinist is Gábor Takács Nagy, leader of the Takács Quartet and of the Budapest Festival Orchestra, and he makes sure the sparks fly in the opening to the G minor Trio. His cellist, Péter Szabó, and pianist, Dániel Várjón, enjoy the impish Scherzo and the stomping, folksy finale: the slow movement is, inevitably, a piano-led Nocturne of great beauty.

Szabó and Várjón bring fiery declamation and a bit of

rough and tumble to the Cello Sonata, written for the French cellist Auguste Franchomme. They collaborated on the then highly fashionable *Grand Duo Concertante*, 12 minutes of audacious variations on themes from Meyerbeer's *Robert le Diable*, played with robust histrionics which test Szabó's bow arm to the full.

## ■ ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

## ■ MOZART

Piano Concertos K453, K466

Levin/Academy of Ancient Music/Hogwood

L'Oiseau-Lyre 455 607-2★★★

£14.99

I RECENTLY welcomed the first instalment in a cycle of Mozart piano concertos from Richard Goode and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. The violinist is Gábor Takács Nagy, leader of the Budapest Festival Orchestra, and he makes sure the sparks fly in the opening to the G minor Trio. His cellist, Péter Szabó, and pianist, Dániel Várjón, enjoy the impish Scherzo and the stomping, folksy finale: the slow movement is, inevitably, a piano-led Nocturne of great beauty.

Szabó and Várjón bring fiery declamation and a bit of

comes an equally welcome further instalment of the

■ NEW CDs  
Herbert von Karajan's early recordings in Vienna are reissued on a new boxed set

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 5 1997

39



## ■ POP

Maria Bethania, the biggest singing star in Latin America, prepares to storm Drury Lane



## ■ THEATRE

The London International Festival of Theatre goes Chinese, but not convincingly

## THE TIMES ARTS



## ■ OPERA

After a shaky start *Tosca* delivers the dramatic goods under canvas in Holland Park



## ■ TOMORROW

Roger McGuinn interviewed, and reviews of the top new albums on the Friday pop pages

E. CREPALDI

# Voodoo that she does so well

They call her the Queen of Brazilian music. And indeed, interviewing Maria Bethania is a bit like securing an audience at Buckingham Palace.

In the lobby of the hotel in Salvador where I was staying, a mad Brazilian composer had to be reckoned with. "Why should my English journalist?" he screamed at my energetic liaison lady, reduced to tears by the onslaught. Then the time and day of the interview changed twice. And finally, we had to find her: although her main home is in Rio de Janeiro, Bethania has recently taken up part-time residence in a yellow 19th-century villa overlooking the Atlantic in a fiendishly well-concealed corner of Salvador (capital of the eastern state of Bahia), reached via rubble-strewn streets.

For more than 30 years Bethania has dominated the female pop-singing stakes, not just in Brazil, but all over Latin America. In 1979, she was the first woman singer in South America to sell a million copies of an album. Now aged 51, her unmistakable, smoky voice seems only to have improved with time. She is part of the small Brazilian superstar elite.

When she sang a brief live set in London three years ago at the Albert Hall, one reviewer oddly observed that "she could have been a major star in the West" if she didn't sing in Portuguese, which was a bit like saying Ravi Shankar could have been a major star outside India if he didn't play sitar. Bethania, who goes down well on the Continent, was delighted by her first British outing, and this clearly

## WORLD MUSIC: James Woodall tracks down the Brazilian star, Maria Bethania

further part of her decision to return to London with a new show, *Ambar* (Amber), on Sunday.

I was very surprised by the enthusiasm of the reviews, and in the audience," she says, cradling a tumbler of Jack Daniels on ice. "It was as if all those English people knew and liked my work."

In truth most of the audience was Brazilian, as it probably will be at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane (an estimated 100,000 Brazilian expatriates in London will all want tickets).

It's hard to name a European or North American equivalent of Bethania: she looks like a cross between a vestal virgin, Elektra, and a more emphatically Indian version of Joan Baez. The only British stars she might vaguely resemble are Annie Lennox or Kate Bush, except that Bethania's career is three times their length.

She was born in the colonial town of Santo Amaro, one of eight children. An older brother is the poet-singer Caetano Veloso, whose influence on Bethania was immense. Over the years, he has composed dozens of songs for her. "He and I are very close. With Caetano around there were always cinema, theatre, music in the household. He was the leader of a

group of us. Came the day when he said I should do a show on my own in Salvador, and I suppose that was the beginning.

"I was made for the stage," she purrs. Not yet 20 when she was called upon to replace a star in a show in Rio in 1965, she became an overnight sensation. In the same year, she consolidated this sudden stardom with a rabbble-rousing song called *Caracara*.

"It was a song about my region, the North East. There had been a military coup in Brazil in 1964: everything beautiful in Bahia seemed to have been invaded by it. Censorship became very fierce. In the song, an eagle swoops down on a calf with its claws, and takes it away to kill it. It was a subliminal message for the people, highly suggestive of what was happening to them."

Bethania was dubbed a protest-singer for her pains, but if anything has characterised her career since the 1960s, it is a refusal to continue in any easily identifiable vein.

"Every time I felt myself cornered by a contract or a deal I didn't like, I'd do something a bit mad — exactly the opposite of being trapped. I've changed record labels many times and fought with all of them. I'm proud to say that I've fought with company bosses."

Only someone of Bethania's towering fame (at least in Latin America) could get away with such operatic conduct; and the more we spoke, the more like a diva she seemed.

"I can be romantic, aggressive, sweet, warm, I can protest — it depends on the time and place," says the fiery diva, Maria Bethania

depends on the time and place." No wonder that Bethania always admires the greatest diva of them all, Maria Callas. "Even when she was being criticised I couldn't help being attracted to her, particularly because of her drama."

The other big theme in her life is religion. Bethania was educated in a convent until her teens, and has long had what she calls a "very special relationship" with the Virgin

Mary — "She's a woman who's human, who cries," she says. As an adult, Bethania encountered the Afro-religion of Bahia, with its mix of Catholicism and voodoo ritual, called *candomblé*.

"It's an exuberant faith, full of music, and began with the slaves, who needed to express an abnormal joy in their state of deprivation by going over the top." Though she is careful to separate her art from

her faith, Bethania assiduously applies religious terminology to what she does on stage.

"The stage is sacred, like a church or *candomblé* house. I've always liked the rituals of religion because worship is a form of theatre. Everything I do on stage is a form of dedication."

This is what London will see on Sunday: a proud, priestess-like figure singing Brazilian songs old

and new, somehow transcending her own language. Bethania performs with heart — *corazón*, a word to be heard many times in the show — and is a fearless communicator.

"I feel very Bahian, but I'm not a parochial person," she says. "I can sing anywhere: London, all ends of the earth."

• *Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (0171-494 5000)*

## Learning curve

A MASSIVE wooden cross, its apex raised at an angle of about 30 degrees to the ground, spans the panoramic stage at Holland Park. High up on it Cavaradossi has to paint his portrait of the Madonna and sing his Act I aria. Tosca in a hobble skirt (for this *Tosca*, like one or two other recent stagings, is set in fascist Italy) has to totter down it for the love duet.

Henk Schut's structure for his own production is hardly



Two chairs and a table: Huang Yaoguang and Wen Zhunwen explore issues of Chinese identity

## China's takeaway

## THEATRE

## Journey to the East

ICA

Blank-faced Chinese stand on escalators going nowhere much. An elderly Chinese woman plods grimly about her house. Tired-looking Chinese sit on a train taking them home at the end of the day. Hong Kong may be just a matter of days from rejoining the Motherland, but the evidence of Stanley Kwan's back-projections is that for most Hong Kongers the daily grind continues as usual.

At least *Kwan's Piece*, as the last of the four playlets that launch this year's London International Festival of Theatre is called, has a clear point or two to make. Sadly, that is not true of the evening as a whole. Danny Yung, its begetter, asked directors from Beijing, Hong Kong and Taipei to create works that, in the words of the programme, "address the problem of Chinese identity" and "look specifically at the tense relationship between mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong". But much of the time they left this Westerner feeling he was blundering into a convoluted family argument that had begun 50, 100, 900 years ago.

Edward Yang's *Jiu Ge* and

*Chairs and Tables* by the Beijing director Li Liu Yi, even though (or maybe because) not a word of either Chinese or English is spoken.

All four pieces — and, presumably, the three others that will replace them later this week — have been composed for two performers, two chairs and one table. But Li makes better use of this set-up than his fellow-directors. Nobody who knows anything about the Mao years will fail to understand the desperation of the man and woman who are flung onstage in their baggy togs and proceed to clean every last speck from the furniture before reverently swathing it in red cloth.

The frantic, obsessive behaviour continues even when the man has donned a suit. They laugh, sob, maniacally clean each other and themselves, fly apart, fling the chairs around, and... but I won't give away an ending that should provide a modicum of comfort to nervous Hong Kongers. Maybe reunification will be gentler than they fear.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

HALFWAY through their British tour — their first in seven years — Les Ballets Africains arrived in London and found an exuberantly delighted audience. But these 34 Guinean performers display such vitality and skill under Italo Zambo's direction that anything less than cheers would be newsworthy.

Their new show, *Heritage*, tells of how the balaphone, a precursor of the xylophone, was discovered. The story runs to several daunting pages in the programme, but no matter: in fact, it serves mainly to celebrate Guinea's music and dance. And Guinea has a vibrant and rich picture to offer.

As well as the balaphone, we hear a flute and a kora, which has 22 strings and produces delicate, melodic notes, offering a rare island of lyricism amid a storm of percussion. There are big drums, small drums, two-ended drums and drums shaped like logs, drums that sound metallic or resonant, drums played with hands or sticks or implements like hooks. These combined for the evening's long and spectacular centrepiece, building a tumult of syncopated noise and creating a vivid tableau of tribal groups.

The dancers sometimes beat drums or shake rattles, the musicians sometimes dance, the flautist does the splits and

## Sacred and secular

## CONCERT

Gabrieli Consort  
New Connaught  
Rooms, WC2

was generally shaky and not helped by poor intonation in the string bass. Native Italian groups have set new standards in madrigal-singing, and by comparison this seemed like a second reading, which reflects poorly on British musicians' capacity for interpretative insight.

The Consort was on more familiar territory with the ceremonial music of the Gabrieli in a reconstruction of the Coronation of Marino Grimani as Doge. There was some fine solo playing (Jeremy West, cornet; Oliver Webber, violin) in the canzonas, and some well sustained declamatory singing from tenor Steven Harold and bass Francis Steele in the Mass by Giovanni Gabrieli. His *Offertory Gentes* provided a rousing tutti finale with enough sackbuts to satisfy any doge.

TESS KNIGHTON

scrabbled the air like someone fighting off an invisible swarm of wasps, jump as if trying to scramble up into the sky. It looks so intricately reckless that you think they are making it up, but then you see the wonderfully strict union of their formations and you realise that every tiny blip and squiggle has been choreographed.

*Heritage* has a political subtext in its message of Guinean unification: but what counts for us here is the limitless vitality and joyousness that spreads across the footlights.

NADINE MEISNER

## Let there be drums

## DANCE

Les Ballets Africains  
Hackney Empire

everybody sings. The dancers trace frenetic scribbles, each millimetre of the body in motion; dislocated, bobbing, shimmery. They shun their feet in repeated phrases.

scrabbled the air like someone

fighting off an invisible swarm of wasps, jump as if trying to scramble up into the sky. It looks so intricately reckless that you think they are making it up, but then you see the wonderfully strict union of their formations and you realise that every tiny blip and squiggle has been choreographed.

*Heritage* has a political subtext in its message of Guinean unification: but what counts for us here is the limitless vitality and joyousness that spreads across the footlights.

NADINE MEISNER



Mon 9 June 7.30pm Box Office 0171 966 4242  
Tickets £35 £30 £25 £14 for £10.50 £14.50 £10.50

## Opera

## Tosca

Holland Park

singer-friendly. It all led to a distinctly shaky first act, nor helped by some flaccid and nervous conducting from Dominic Wheeler. But when *Tosca* came down to earth in the Farnese Palace and action was conducted at ground level, there was a mighty improvement. The Holland Park company has a star Scarpia in Jeffrey Carl, who took an iron grip on the performance. With his black leather jacket and hair slicked back into a tiny pigtail, he is natural casting for Puccini's *Bad Cop*. His firm baritone has enough rasp to cut through the evening air under Holland Park's canvas.

Wheeler injected far more vigour into his young orchestra, and *Tosca* began to sound like a sensible popular choice for the opening of the summer season. But then Schut managed to spoil all by revealing a cage of political prisoners as Tosca plunges her knife into Scarpia's belly. Worse still, he releases them and has them tramp noisily across the back of the stage during the Act III dawn prelude. And during the opening bars of Act I the Marchese Attavanti was made to walk across the stage. Puccini kept her as a subject for Cavaradossi's paint brush, and he knew best.

Mark Hamilton, an experienced tenor, took a little time to find his way as the painter. The voice tends to plumbiness and could do with more lyrical quality, but the "Vittorias" rang out firm and loud.

Sarah Rhodes in the title role is a soprano with plenty of weight and depth, and had considerable success in colouring and shaping *Vissi d'arte*, although as an actress as yet she lacks passion.

A second trio of principals opens tonight.

JOHN HIGGINS

## COMEDY: Luke Clancy at the Kilkenny Festival

that there is fertile ground for laughs on both sides of the political correctness divide. Mills has no shame when it comes to attacking the North of England ("... after all, that's what it's there for"), while Steel's set went as far as promoting a meeting the next day in support of a group of striking Belfast workers.

Despite their divergent political stances, both comics decided to pick on Manchester's aspirations to host the Olympic Games. In this particular contest, Mills's version of the opening ceremony, with a superannuated Terry Christian as compere, and a finale that involved the shooting of several homing pigeons, easily took the gold medal.

As well as stand-up, the festival also saw the screening of a new feature film by part-time stand-up and director, Mark Staunton. *Separation Anxiety* is built around a simple, strong concept. Take the current crop of Irish stand-ups and weave bits of their stage personae into a story of contemporary Dublin.

Given the critical mass of comedians, the film should have been far funnier, but it at least provided a fresh cinematic version of the Irish capital, a location with apparently more than its fair share of lecherous voiceover artists and existentially tormented models.

Two very different types of Irish comedian topped and tailed the Saturday and Sunday of the festival. Owen O'Neill moved out of "straight" stand-up into that territory where telling fireside stories.

His performance, *Shouting from the Scaffold*, wove a narrative from his time as a hood carrier on London building sites. O'Neill's often melancholic journeys took him through various pubs, accompanied by a man called Pat the Dog, crashing through the roof of Hammersmith police station, and on to a sleepless night in an isolated Scottish hotel with a psychotic raw sausage eater for a roommate. There were fewer laughs than stifled tears in the routine, but it was nonetheless an impressive piece of storytelling.

Pat the Dog and the other boozing bric-a-brac from O'Neill's past might have given Graham Norton a tough time had the camp comedian ever shouldered a hood on their site. Early in the morning in a small bar theatre in Kilkenny, however, it was Norton who was dishing out the verbal abuse.

In between lessons in the more esoteric sexual practices of gay men and a fortune-telling session with an obese tinsel-covered Barbie doll called Princess Wishing Star, the comic took time out to explore the marital lives of the front row. Far from reciting badly, the audience warmed to Norton rapidly, and would have been eating out of his hand, if only they could have stopped laughing for long enough.

Ian McIntyre enjoys the posthumous memoirs of a scholar who saw the world with as much compassion as intelligence

**H**e is the Goya of our craft." Such was the admiring verdict when Richard Cobb's *Paris and its Provinces* first appeared. This posthumous volume of memoirs is not the best of the 15 books he wrote in English over the past 30 years, but there are many good things in it. Personal reminiscence informed much of Cobb's writing, although he wrote no single or consecutive account of his life. This last reworking of autobiographical fragments rounds out most engagingly our picture of this outstanding historian of the common people of Revolutionary France.

In a series of talks which he gave on Radio 3 in the late 1970s, Cobb argued that there was one thing which neither this historian of *les petites gens* nor the novelist of urban or regional popular could do without — "a sense of place that is concrete, almost physical, even if it is addressing itself to a town or a quarter or a landscape of nearly two centuries back".

## A ride on history's branch line

THE END OF THE LINE  
A Memoir  
By Richard Cobb  
John Murray, £20  
ISBN 0719554603

He was extremely well-read in the work of such novelists as it happens — Blaise Cendrars on Marseilles, Maxence van der Meersch on Roubaix, Raymond Queneau who wrote about the northern suburbs of Paris and about Le Havre. He particularly admired Queneau's *Loin de Kœil* and in a letter to the *TLS* once praised Queneau's verbal inventiveness and enumerated his qualities as a novelist: his joyful humour, his innocence, his compassion and his enjoyment of "unleavened" company. It is not a

bad résumé of Cobb's own qualities as a writer, all of which find expression in *The End of the Line*.

The journey gets off to a slowish start. I found the account of his schooldays at Shrewsbury slightly laboured, but once he escapes to France for the first time both he and his prose are liberated. On Easter Day he attends Pontifical High Mass in the cathedral at Rouen. A devout young woman sitting close to him suddenly goes down on her knees, in the middle of the aisle, and kisses the Archbishop's large reddish ring: "She kissed it glut-



Portrait of a vanished age: winter in Vienna, 1932

tonously, almost as if she were going to eat the whole hand off as well." He is at his funniest describing a visit to prewar Vienna. "Every time the train stopped, more and more members of the White Horse Inn cast got off, to be

replaced by others who began eating nasty-looking sausages with clasp-knives. The whole scene was hideously, irredeemably rural." Later he is arrested for distributing political literature (Quaker leaflets, in fact), beaten up by the police and imprisoned as a Czech student. The British consul was a jolly, hearty man with a rugged face

as "inimitable". It is certainly idiosyncratic — sentences that go on for half a page are a hazardous undertaking in any language. He writes at one point about Maupassant's "marvellously cut-down prose", but is not disposed to emulate it.

Cobb is also in the nicest possible way, a tremendous show-off about how good his French is. His text is sometimes so heavily splattered with French words that it becomes a distraction ("André Dubuc was a retired schoolmaster, an *érudit local*, wearing the mauve ribbon of *les palmes*, who contributed numerous *gloses*, with commentary, to *Annales de Normandie*").

Frank about his own shortcomings ("I had always had enough self-knowledge to have known perfectly well that I was not, never could be, of potential officer mate-

rial"), Cobb was remarkably tolerant of the defects of others. In the Army he encounters a lieutenant with a bogus Oxford degree (the poor man happened to have hit on Cobb's own college at the time he himself was up): "I kept my information to myself; he had seemed a nice enough chap." What fascinated him about such cases of academic fraud was the modesty of their spurious claims: "Why a Third in English at Southampton, or a Second in Portuguese at London, when you might have offered yourself first in Mods and Greats at Corpus?"

"I feel that the Old Enemy — the one with whom François Mitterrand has seemed to come to terms by a sort of private treaty — may indeed be spending a bit of time on my own case." Cobb's endpaper about the illnesses of his last few years is brief and unsentimental. He finished it on a characteristically wry and gentle note, only two days before he died: "Not quite une voie d'outre-tombe — nor a Proust. But the best I can do for now."

## In pursuit of the soul

Peter Ackroyd on how the 19th century changed our view of the world

**T**here was a time when, in the salon, or concert room, the musicians could scarcely be heard above the cacophony of noise and gossip issuing from a relatively uninterested audience. Then, at some undetermined point in the 19th century, a "worshipful silence" began to prevail. In a quiet broken only by tears, music became a religious experience based largely upon self-communing. That transition is the theme of Peter Gay's latest volume of 19th century studies: it is the fourth of a series devoted to what he terms "the bourgeois experience", and on this occasion undertakes a "great voyage into the interior" where the secrets of the human heart may be discovered.

Meanwhile, in *The Victorian World Picture*, David Newsome examines that new sense of life in the context of broad cultural change; the Victorians believed that they were part of an age of transformation, and he depicts the intense self-consciousness of the individual as part of the self-consciousness of the period. It was a time of "excessive acceleration" in every conceivable direction with the most salient characteristic, according to one contemporary, of "SPEED". It is an insight which Newsome himself takes forward in his disquisition on class relations, as well as transport, on religion as well as political economy.

But Gay's study allows us to slow down. He has pursued the El Dorado of the human heart in earlier volumes devoted to the experience of love and of conflict in the Victorian era: now he concerns himself with the elements of introversion in a period generally known for its public dogmas and no less public works. He has in a sense become the Proust of academic history, touching upon the strange stirrings of the human consciousness which lie beneath the volumes of recorded time. David Newsome takes a broader view, and his narrative is necessarily more circumspect on the tender issues of sensibility and conduct: but his transitions are very delicate and

THE NAKED HEART  
By Peter Gay  
Harper Collins, £30  
ISBN 000257088  
THE VICTORIAN WORLD PICTURE  
By David Newsome  
John Murray, £25  
ISBN 0719556309

we no longer see the world steadily, and as a whole.

A case can in fact be drawn from Gay's own thorough investigations. He is understandably sharp about the professed Christianity of the principal Romantic writers, believing it to spring from the sublime egotism of the truly great who can even remake God in their own image. Yet in large measure writers like Schiller and Chateaubriand were, in Gay's plangent words, "fighting for the re-enchantment of the world" after the scepticism and vapidity of the Enlightenment. It is of course an old battle: the great division between writers has nothing to do with race or gender, but lies in the extent to which they adopt a secular or spiritual understanding of the world. Wordsworth's own poetry might be considered the ultimate exercise of romantic self-expression, but it might also be seen as the final triumph of European Protestantism. That age of strenuous faith has also gone.

*The Naked Heart* then, is concerned with the quest for self-definition. There is an excellent chapter here, for example, on the renaissance of autobiography in the 19th century. A bourgeois audience clamoured for the lives of heroes while at the same time novelists began to make elaborate use of first-person narratives from "Call me Ishmael" to "For a long time I used to go to bed early". It is not often that Melville and Proust can be seen as part of the same company.

That is indeed the strength of both books. The panoramic tendency has disadvantages, but its greatest virtue lies in Gay's ability to connect various aspects of literature which

are generally considered to be incompatible. In this context history and poetry, fiction and biography, can be seen as part of the same process. Those who claim pre-eminence for one form, or disparage another, are guilty of a grave cultural mistake. It is even possible, if present developments are to be trusted, that all generic boundaries will disappear.

The not necessarily compelling force of scientific "progress" can also be granted a small role here. Gay credits the institution of the penny post, for example, with the rise of the letter as the "token of true affection". In 1839, 76 million letters were delivered but, only 11 years later, that

figure had risen to 347 million. For once we may see clearly the influence of technology upon feeling.

This insight is representative of a book which, in large part, is concerned with the symbiotic relationship between individual sensibility and cultural orthodoxy. *The Naked Heart* reveals very clearly that the history of any culture is also the history of various bewildered, incomplete and "naked" selves: in turn Newsome's *Victorian World Picture* shows that the general culture is itself manifold and contradictory, precisely because it represents a multitude of conflicting impulses. Both books, then, depict the process of life itself,

## Miraculous prose

Russell Celyn Jones

QUARANTINE  
By Jim Crace  
Viking, £16.99  
ISBN 0670856975

and helps himself to water. He casually touches Musa, as a way of giving thanks, and unwittingly heals the dying man. But Musa — a bestial tyrant, a rapist, Satan, no less — is a man the world would have been better without. Thus Jesus creates his own bad luck through a random levitation.

Musa, convinced he's the beneficiary of a miracle, wants to lure Gally out of his cave. With his supernatural gift and Musa's trading aplomb together they could clean up in the market. "To buy and sell is just as spiritual as prayer or going without food," he

opines. And it is Musa's scheming that generates the narrative. Claiming ownership of the desert he rents caves to the four pilgrims. Unlike Gally, they break fast every evening and Musa sells them food and water. But he fails — three times, naturally — to tempt Gally, who pays for his resolve with his life: an outcome that corresponds with early Christian belief that Christ was an apparition.

Gally is not yet the Son of Man, just a "boy" full of idealism. "He was transformed by God like other boys, his age were changed by girls". His Mission is only dimly intimated and his life is as much a charade as the next compulsive obsession. His quest in the wilderness for spiritual truth is a pursuit of adult identity. As a writer Crace is lean and aethetic. He is also omniscient and dispassionate. Consequently Gally's soliloquies come across as

rather abstract, unmoving for all his suffering. Crace best maintains Gally's mythological status when seen through the merchant's eyes like *The Great Gatsby* from Nick Carraway's point of view.

All seven characters will get something out of their sojourn, but not in ways foreseen. Even Musa, who despite losing his merchandise escapes the wilderness by hitching a ride with passing travellers, trading on stories of survival. Survival by stories. Crace, too, is a storyteller of unique gifts. His evocation of the domestic details of an ancient world and the minutiae of a timeless desert landscape are thrilling: Herod's Holy Land has never seemed so contemporary. The connections made, phrase to phrase, are sprung on hair-triggered verbs and every other sentence is a work of art. After the efficient but somewhat somnambulant *Signs of Distress*, Crace has returned to form, producing one of the finest novels I've read in years. A place on the 1997 Booker shortlist is the least it deserves.

Rachel Benjamin doesn't want to be married. Her parents choose a young man anyway, shave off all her hair and deliver their teenage daughter to his amateur gropings. Pearl Abraham describes each step with chilling sympathy and obvious knowledge. Set among New York's Hasidic Jews, *The Romance Reader* is a moving coming-of-age story which also provides rare insight into a tight-knit and very alien American community.

Rachel is the oldest of seven children — an example for younger siblings and, as the daughter of a rabbi, an example to outsiders, too. For Rabbi Benjamin is the shepherd of a depleted Hasidic neighbourhood, out on the street corner each week, corralling the ninth and tenth man into synagogue for *miyan*. His wife, meanwhile, eyes him wearily from behind drawn curtains. A lifetime of cleaning and pregnancy has left her bitter — and willing to resort to potty deceit (the rhythm method) to regain some control of her life.

As the novel opens, it is

lively novels — romances by Barbara Cartland, Charlotte Brontë and Victoria Holt — her father views her reading as a dangerous act of betrayal: "The Jews survived in Egypt because of three things," he warns. "They didn't change their names, they didn't change their clothes, and they didn't change their language. Could we depend on you for our survival?" Rabbi Benjamin reminds his daughter of the prophet's warning to the people of Judea — and of the sin of assimilation: "A Jew is never liked by other nations. A Jew reads only Jewish books and must remain separate."

For her literary escapism, Rachel is found guilty. And her guilt haunts her. The courtship her parents arrange and supervise never matches up to the empty romances that fire her teenage imagination. So it is hardly surprising that, as Rachel approaches marriage, she transfers her anger to her awkward young husband, prompting some of the novel's most poignant scenes.

Written in the first person, *The Romance Reader* may not be autobiographical in the most literal sense, but it is surely based on Pearl Abraham's own knowledge of Hasidism. And it is that privileged viewpoint which makes this memorable first novel so very affecting.

Frances Stead Sellers is an editor of the "Outlook" section of The Washington Post.

**NEW AUTHORS**  
PUBLISH YOUR WORK  
ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED  
Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography,  
Religion, Poetry, Children's  
AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED  
WE CALL FOR YOUR MANUSCRIPT  
MINERVA PRESS



## Journey in the land of language

Natasha Fairweather

LE TESTAMENT FRANCAIS  
By Andrei Makine  
Translated by Geoffrey Strachan  
Sceptre, £16.99  
ISBN 0340620251

translated into unabashedly lyrical English prose by Geoffrey Strachan, even if the title has been left marooned in French. Layering image upon image, and following fragments of memory down little blind alleys before returning to what is essentially a rites-of-passage novel, Makine tells us the story of his quest for an identity.

A LOVE of France was grafted onto Makine's heart during early childhood. He spent his summers on Charlotte Lemmonier's balcony, listening to her tales of *Belle Epoque* Paris, with its glutinous menus and vivid aesthetic texture, while looking out over the boundless Russian steppe which has entrapped his grandmother. During adolescence Russia awakens in the author, "like a bear after a long winter", and he cheapens his French identity by using it as a rare currency with which to pull girls or entertain his loutish new friends.

But with adulthood the author begins to understand the mystery of the French language: not blunted by mundane, everyday use French enables him to begin to articulate the incommunicable, unsayable essence of his life. He has become a writer, and a French writer at that.

## She depends on herself for survival

Frances Stead Sellers

THE ROMANCE READER  
By Pearl Abraham  
Quartet Books, £10  
ISBN 0704380390



Rachel deliberately fails to live up to the standards of religious law that the Hasidic couple expect. To an outsider, her sins seem innocent enough: she wears a bathing suit that shows her legs when she swims, lingers over the non-kosher food on the supermarket shelves, and slips off her thick, seamed hose in favour of sheer stockings when she leaves the house. But when Rachel sets aside Hebrew texts for tawdry Eng-

# Both feet on the floor

Peter Stothard devours a new look at ancient love

**T**he sexual positions portrayed on Classical Greek vase paintings are rarely those recommended by the Christian missionary. Occasionally a man and a woman can be pictured on a wine cup with a mutually tender gaze and their bodies hidden under a sheet. More often the banquets of ancient Athens were served from plates and pots bearing a Kama Sutra of exotic copulation — a fact which in the 20th century has brought both embarrassment for scholars and opportunities for some of their wilder theoretical adventures.

One approach has been to pretend that the sexual acts painted on the kitchenware were not actually happening. Pictures of grappling male homosexuals could be captioned as preparation for the wrestling match. Priapic old men tempting boys with delicacies of hare or fowl were seen as hagglers at the butcher's shop. Brothel scenes, in which the girls did a bit of spinning to pass the time between clients, were part of the artistic heritage of the woollen industry.

A more modern scholastic device has been to apply a protractor to each sexual position and to ascertain thereby the degree of political and social domination implied. The prime assumption in such studies is that the dominant partner must be exploiting his victim. To be taken from behind is, according to this theory, an especially passive and submissive experience, representing the structure of class discrimination and abuse in Greece's allegedly Golden Age.

For the past seven years James Davidson has pored over plates, wine jars and poetry and come up with an altogether more relaxed interpretation of sensual life in the time of Pericles, Socrates and Plato. *Courtesans and Fishcakes* is about sex, food and drink and the part that all three played in developing Athenian identity. Where others have found exploitation and outrage, Davidson is more likely to have found fun.

Why, for example, does so much sexual activity seem to take place with both partners' feet on the floor? Not, he says, because of any desire to humiliate but because illicit liaisons so often happened outdoors, their secrecy always vulnerable to exposure by cuckolded husbands or curious passers-by. Athenian lovers, particularly the sort



Sensual life in the time of Pericles: amorous encounter between a man and a woman depicted on an Attic red-figure vase (circa 530-430 BC); from K. J. Dover's *Greek Homosexuality* (Duckworth, £12.95)

**COURTESANS AND FISHCAKES**  
The Consuming Passions of Classical Athens  
By James Davidson  
HarperCollins, £25  
ISBN 0 00 255913

whose stories appealed to the dinner party carousers, had to be quick on their feet.

The Greek word *katapugon*, which is often translated to mean a pathetic object of lust, is seen by Davidson, with respectable authority from the dictionary, as meaning more broadly a lewd and lascivious person, someone who does not set sex as an assault but who instead actively enjoys it. This meaning makes good sense of an otherwise awkward passage in Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* in which the heroine attacks her fellow women who would rather go through fire than join her anti-war sex-strike. "How wholly *katapugon* is our species," she says in

an outburst which Sir Kenneth Dover, one of the most distinguished sex-apolitics theorists, rendered lamely as "what a miserable bloody lot we women are". To the translator Alan Sommerstein, writing from the Davidson camp, Lysistrata's cry fits in far better with the plot as "what an absolute race of nymphomaniacs we are".

Another scholastic squabble concerns an early Classical vase in which a Greek man, his penis in his hand, rushes towards the backside of a barbarian buffoon who is saying "I am Eurymedon, I bend over". This has been often interpreted as a patriotic commentary on the great Greek victory over the Persians by the river Eurymedon in about 460 BC. Dover, using his passive-homosexual-equals-political-Hoser model, translates this as "we've buggered the Persians". Davidson convincingly argues that the Greek in the picture does not look like a soldier, that the buffoon need not be a

Persian and that the act of "buggery" in the scene is more a matter of hope, on both sides, than achievement. He sees the cup as a simple dinner party joke and Eurymedon as some long-forgotten orgiast.

Throughout this most enjoyable book about enjoyment, the academic jousting goes on. Davidson does not claim to clarify every obscure point. Even he must admit defeat in deciphering the sexual position described in Greek as "the lion on the cheese-grater". But he spars with Foucault and Freud, biographers and bishops, with open glee.

If anything, Davidson enjoys his fishcakes even more than he enjoys his courtesans. Modern visitors to Greece see fish as the staple of local diet. But in Classical times — with seafaring dangerous and preservation methods poor — good fish was a rare and maddeningly desirable delicacy. If an Athenian man were to squander his patrimony or let his wife and children go hungry, the

reason would more likely be a beautiful eel than a slender girl or boy. Famous prostitutes' names included "red mullet", "cuttle fish" and "the anchovy sisters". A sour commentary on their personal hygiene? More probably a sign of value, like a gangster calling his molls Diamond and Pearl.

In an age when public life was the predominant life of Greece and when meat-eating was part of organised public religion, fish was part of the slowly growing private sector. Davidson's fishcakes — and his courtesans too — represented the growth of personal and private space in city life, space in which anyone who could afford the best for themselves got it. The moral issue was not so much what they should do but how much.

"Nothing in excess" remained the mantra for Greek behaviour throughout the period described in this book; but it was an axiom much honoured in the breach and always tested when the plates were set out for a party.

Orlando Figes on Eric Hobsbawm's lost hopes

## Revolution in the head

**E**ric Hobsbawm is probably the best-known living historian in the world. Millions of people have read his many books — especially the quartet of global histories ending with his overview of the 20th century in *Age of Extremes* — in more than a dozen different languages. He is also a communist, an unrepentant advocate of the Soviet system (even after the lessons of 1956). This may seem ironic: how many book clubs realise they're peddling Marxist literature? But in fact the key to his achievement and appeal is in his Marxist approach to history.

In this collection of 21 essays and lectures, published to mark Hobsbawm's eightieth birthday, he sets out his credo as an historian.

Some of his opinions are rather hard to swallow, and I suspect that when he told a group of Hungarian students in 1993 that "for the common citizens of the more backward countries" of Eastern Europe the Stalinist epoch "was probably the best period in their history", he lost many friends. Non-specialists will not be entertained by the nine central essays that focus on Marxist theory, economic history and historiography. But they will be impressed by the tremendous range of his erudition and the brilliant incisiveness of his analysis. Marx himself would have been impressed.

**H**obsbawm's life runs like a red thread through the history of the Marxist movement in this century (it was his personal recollections that made his *Age of Extremes* so good). Born symbolically in 1917, he spent his childhood in Vienna and Berlin during the years of Hitler's rise to power, and studied at Cambridge in the 1930s, when it was a hotbed of communism. The war years found him serving in the Pioneer Corps; it was the time of the grand alliance with the Soviet Union, when sympathy for Soviet Russia became almost part of the establishment.

In his later years as an historian, Hobsbawm's Marxism provided him with a method of analysis rather than a series of political conclusions, although as an old man he retains the passionate commitments of his youth (in one of his essays he even argues that historians should be partisan). Marxism gave him a formula to analyse the evidence and synthesise the work of other specialists. Apart from his two important early books,

*Primitive Rebels* (1959) and *Labouring Men* (1964), which pioneered the study of social protest and labour history, his work has not been based on original research.

He is in this sense a generalist, drawing broad conclusions from the primary research of younger scholars (who might never otherwise have seen the general point), and always striving for what the French call "total history". He has written on almost everything: revolutions, nationalism, empire and culture; peasants, bandits and obscure labour sects.

For a Marxist this is rather heterodox. There was little place for such marginal groups in the Marxist orthodoxy.

**ON HISTORY**  
By Eric Hobsbawm  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20  
ISBN 0 297 81915 1

dogmatically dedicated to the proletariat. And, arguably like Marx himself, Hobsbawm is no economic determinist. There was no translation of Hobsbawm's work in Soviet Russia.

Yet, like all Marxists, he sees history as a social science and believes with passion in studying the past to discover general laws of social development that, if applied correctly, may reshape the world. As an empiricist, he holds firmly a commonsense belief in historical facts (the Nazi gas ovens did exist) and is at his most convincing when rejecting those postmodernists who would deny this belief as a premise for research, nationalists who misuse history and ignore the facts, or historians who in-

Orlando Figes is the author of *A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution 1891-1924* (Cape, £25), which this year won the NCR Prize for Non-fiction, the W.H. Smith Literary Today Award, and together with Eric Hobsbawm (for his life achievement) the Wolfson History Prize.



Hobsbawm: erudition and brilliantly incisive analysis

## The stormy reality of a Lakeland idyll

Ann Thwaite

**A PASSIONATE SISTERHOOD**  
The Sisters, Wives and Daughters of the Lake Poets  
By Kathleen Jones  
Constable, £20  
ISBN 0 09 476311

made it almost impossible for a woman to achieve a fulfilling life. "Literature cannot be the business of a woman's life," Southey wrote to Charlotte Brontë.

The blurb inevitably suggests that these women's letters and journals contribute to a fuller understanding of the poets. That is still usually seen as the justification for writing about women, when, in fact, the lives themselves are sufficient justification. There have in the past been interesting biographies of several of these women, of Dorothy Wordsworth and earlier of both Sara Coleridge, the wife and the daughter, but Kathleen Jones

has taken on the more complex challenge of a group biography to show the reader the intercrossing lives of the women. That some of them were sisters is true, but they were in no sense a united "sisterhood". Their shared lives often produced jealousy and friction. They were, on the whole, more interested in their men than in each other.

All three of the poets were in triangular relationships: Wordsworth with his wife and his sister, Coleridge with his wife and with Wordsworth's sister-in-law, Sara Hutchinson, Southey with his wife and his wife's sister, who was Coleridge's estranged wife. As the daughters grow up there are just too many women surrounding these men, doing everything for them ("almost his very Eating and Drinking"), as Coleridge wrote of Wordsworth. It is sometimes difficult to retain a clear picture of their separate painful lives. Several of them, including Mary Wordsworth, remain obstinately shadowy. Money is always a problem,



and so is health. Children die (the poets lost young children, Southey four); daughters' marriages are opposed; there are breakdowns and declines into insanity. There are endless frustrations resulting from dependence. Dora Wordsworth, though apparently far more clever than her

"domestic cypher", after Molly Lefebvre's biography over 10 years ago. She was in her way as remarkable as her daughter. "I blame no one," she once said, remaining obstinately loyal to the great genius to whom ordinary rules did not seem to apply. It was Southey who said that Coleridge's habits were "so murderous of all domestic comfort" that she should have rejoiced at being rid of him.

It is a considerable achievement to tell the connecting stories of so many women in fewer than 300 pages; a huge amount of research and thought obviously lies behind the book. It inevitably suffers, as all group biographies do, from a change of foreground subject just as the reader's interest is thoroughly engaged. The Coleridge wedding at the end of one chapter, for instance, gives way to the birth of Dorothy Wordsworth at the beginning of the next. They were interesting women and deserve to be written about. The calm jacket painting of a woman reading by candlelight gives little indication of the turbulent emotions within the pages of this book.

Ann Thwaite's biography of Emily Tennyson: The Poet's Wife, will be published in paperback by Faber in September.

Donald Antrim is a writer of considerable gifts, but I was never convinced that this cumbersome allegory was rich or various enough to sustain an entire novel (Shirley Jackson told much the same story much more effectively in her classic short story *The Lottery*). Families don't need to be made strange by giving them a hundred brothers and no visible parents. They are strange already. If you feel the need to make football matches more interesting by putting a hundred players on each side, then the problem is with you rather than football.

## THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

SAVE £2 ON PUBLISHER'S RRP

**FERMAT'S LAST THEOREM:**

*The Story of the Riddle that Confounded the World's Greatest Minds*

by Simon Singh (Fourth Estate £12.99 now £10.99)

### LONGITUDE:

*The True Story of the Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time*

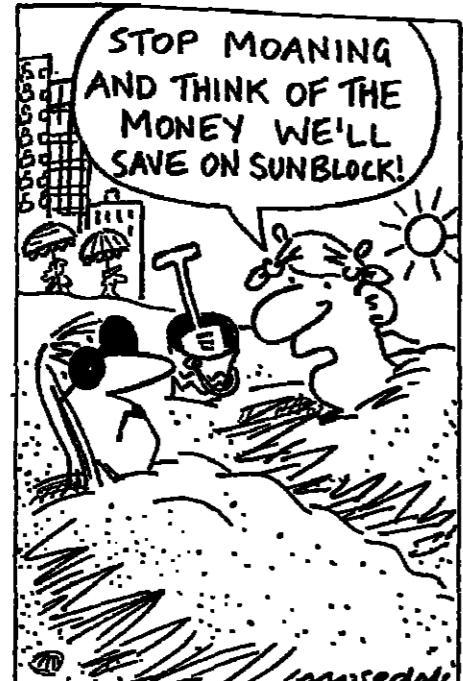
by Dava Sobel (Fourth Estate £12 now £10)

- The Bookshop is also available to take orders for ANY English-language books currently in print
- FREE UK postage and packing
- Delivery in 7-10 days, subject to availability
- 24-hour telephone service. Staff available between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday, (Good Friday and Easter Monday 10am to 4pm), 9am to 4pm Saturday, and 10am to 4pm Sunday.

CALL: 0345 660 916



## Sunbathers face increased risk of skin cancer



IT'S A sobering thought after a week of unbroken sunshine, but sunbathing claims 1,800 lives in Britain each year, nearly half as many as road accidents, and the numbers are rising rapidly.

Nearly 40,000 people develop skin cancer annually, 50 per cent more than 25 years ago, when the advent of cheaper holidays abroad meant that millions could suddenly afford a break in the sun, exposing themselves to harmful ultra-violet rays, often with little or no protection.

It takes ten to 15 years for skin cancers to develop, so doctors expect the numbers will continue to rise because of the constant growth in the number of sunshine holidays and the fashion for golden tans throughout the Eighties.

Parents, too, are blamed for exposing their children to too much sun. We absorb half our lifetime's ultra-violet rays as children, and the rest of it during an average of 30 days a year on holiday or at weekends.

You do not need to go to the Mediterranean to get sunburnt. With long-range forecasters predicting that our climate will become warm enough to produce good red wines within the next 30 years, doctors are becoming increasingly alarmed at the blase' way the British,

particularly males, continue to go out in the midday sun. Figures show that skin cancer is more prevalent in coastal areas. This is not only because people living there tend to sunbathe more often, but because they are a retirement area which attract well-to-do pensioners who have probably spent many holidays in the sun during their working lives.

The growth in skin cancer has led the Health Education Authority to declare this Sun Awareness Week to educate people about the dangers of overexposure to harmful rays. The basic rules are never to go outside between 11am and 3pm without a sunblock cream of at least factor 15.

Dr John Hawk, consultant dermatologist at St Thomas's Hospital in London, says there is no point in buying anything with a sun protection factor of less. "The lower-factor creams are almost useless," he says. "There is no real advantage in putting them on. It is just a pharmaceutical ruse to obtain money."

Even better than a sunblock, he says, is to wear broad-brimmed sun hats and cotton clothes to cover as much of the body as possible. He points out that Arabs cover themselves with flowing robes from head to toe. "There is no reassurance themselves."

such thing as a healthy tan," he says. "If the skin turns brown, it shows that it has been damaged."

Katie Aston, the Health Education Authority's campaign director on cancer, says that male sunbathing by men is the most worrying development. A third more women than men develop malignant melanoma, but a third more men than women die of it. Slightly more men than women develop non-melanoma cancer but almost double the number of men die of it because they report it when the condition is too advanced for successful treatment.

"Men are less likely to aspire to a tan and more likely to burn," says Ms Aston. "They seem to think that it is really hunky to take their shirts off. But a sunburnt chest isn't attractive, and nor is cancer."

"Women are more used to putting cream on their faces and are therefore much more likely to use sunscreens. By the time they are 15, girls start want a tan because they think it is sexually attractive, but by the time they are 28 they have got their man and become less interested in it. There are signs that they start tanning again when they are 45 because the children are off their hands and they want to reassess themselves."

### Sterling boost for France

BY STEVE KEENAN

THE surge in sterling strength following the French elections should further boost the recovery in demand for summer holidays across the Channel this year.

With tourist rates nudging Fr9.3 to the pound, the market to France is up by a quarter this summer. Top-of-the-range villas and cottages are the first to sell out in peak school holiday weeks.

Francophiles are unlikely to find their first-choice holidays, say tour operators, who are concentrating on selling their "shoulder season" stock of June and September holidays.

Just France this week reported that its sales have doubled over 1996. John Parker, managing director, said: "We do have some prime properties available in high season — but this is only as a result of cancellations."

VFB Holidays reported sales to France were up 20 per cent, with Corsica showing the biggest increase. And Thomas Cook reported sales of package holidays to France up 24 per cent to the end of April.

Holidaymakers are also unlikely to find as many bargains for cross-Channel travel this year. The French Government this week gave the go-ahead for the merger of P&O and Stena Line on ferry routes from Dover and Newhaven. The companies were meeting European Union officials last night and await UK Government approval.

The two companies believe they can put a merged operation into effect within two weeks, reducing Dover-based ships from nine to six and hardening summer prices.

Le Shuttle has also stuck to peak prices of £169 return, compared to £129 last summer. Both the ferries and tour operators are looking to make money after four years of decline in the French market. The Dover Harbour Board yesterday reported that its passenger numbers were up 20 per cent to the end of May, compared with the same five-month period last year.

One sector underperforming is that of tents and mobile homes. Sales of apartment holidays are also below the average increase. The best bargains are to be found in these two markets. Keycamp has cut prices for two-week camping holidays by up to £230 for July, while apartment holidays on the French Riviera have been reduced by up to £400 by Just France.

### Medals for clean team

BY IOLA SMITH

MORE than a thousand volunteers who helped to clean up the Pembrokeshire coast after last year's *Sea Empress* oil spill were yesterday awarded specially struck medals by the Welsh Tourist Board. Their actions and the effectiveness of the operation, they were told, averted long-term economic damage to the region's tourism industry.

Oakwood Leisure Park, Narberth, Pembrokeshire, has won the large business category in the 1997 Wales Tourism Awards. The ten-year-old business welcomes 430,000 visitors a year.

The medium-sized business award went to Llangorse Rope Centre, Brecon, an activity centre offering abseiling, climbing and caving. Llangollen Farmhouse, Haverfordwest, won the small business category for its farm holidays and cheese-making.

## Hotels pass the green test

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

ONE OF Britain's leading long-haul tour operators has drawn up a "green list" of environmentally friendly hotels in the Caribbean after an impassioned plea from the Prince of Wales.

The Prince's article — in *Green Hotelier* magazine — argued that the world's most beautiful places were often ruined by uncontrolled development.

"For many places, the process of urbanisation through insensitive development for mass tourism and the destruction of natural environments, townscapes and fragile ecosystems have demonstrated vividly and tragically the limits to sustainability," the Prince wrote.

His words prompted British Airways Holidays (BAH) to conduct a survey among its customers. More than half said they would choose an airline or tour operator which took into account environmental issues.

"We decided to see whether they would put into practice what they said to the researchers," said Roger Heape, BAH's managing director. "We will monitor what happens and if sales go up among the hotels we have identified we will extend the idea to other parts of the world."

German tourists already demand proof that their hotel is environmentally friendly and other British tour operators are certain to follow BAH's initiative.

More than 100 hotels were surveyed by the International Hotels Environment Initiative

(IHEI) and the Caribbean Hotel Association.

Thirteen were identified as having the best environmental practice, achieving at least a 75 per cent "pass rate" in key areas, including staff training, monitoring of energy consumption, waste management, control of hazardous chemicals, links with the local community, keeping buildings in local style and purchasing policies.

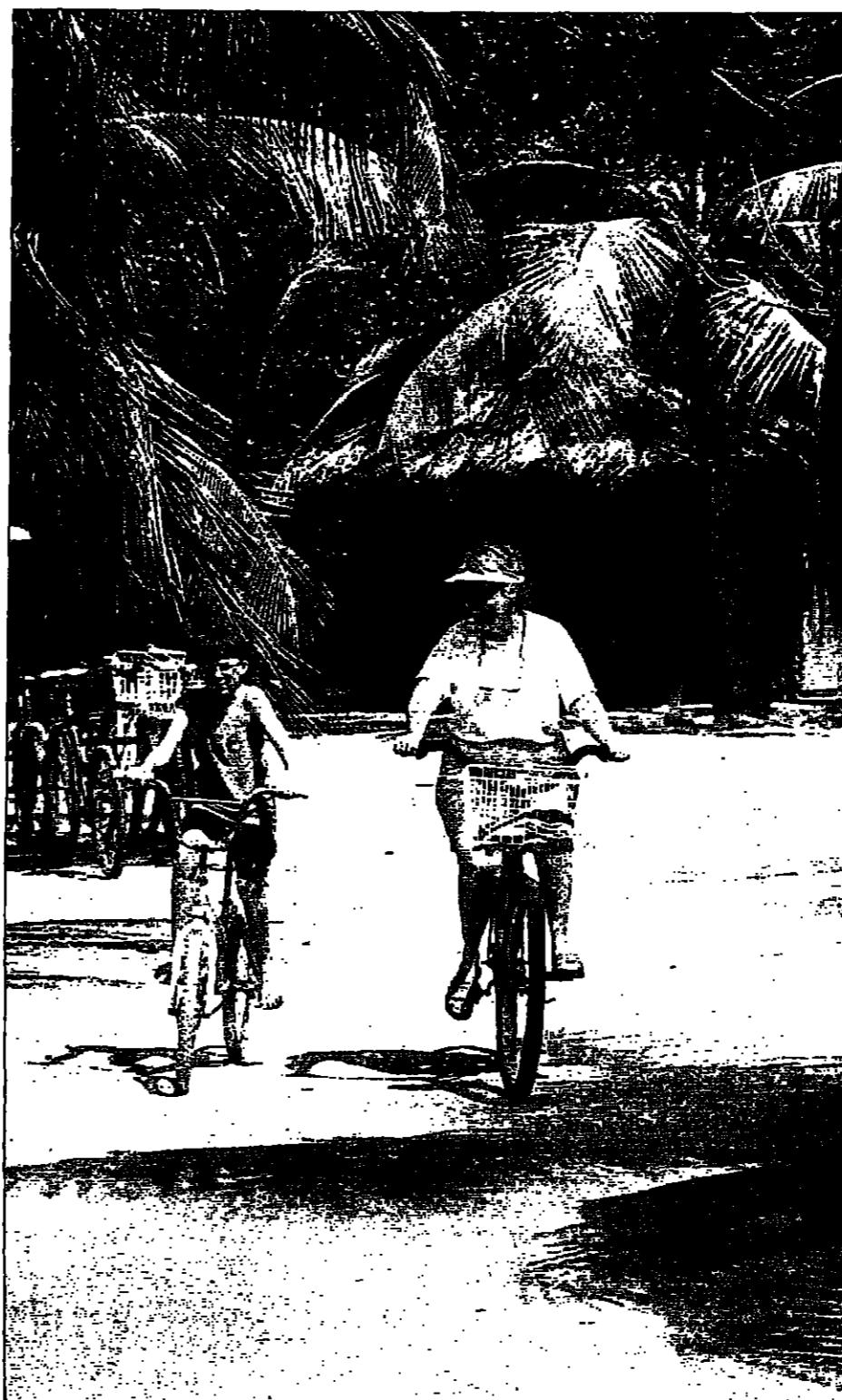
Each of the hotels meeting the criteria will be given a logo to use in BAH brochures. The logo will allow people to consider environmental practice when making their holiday choice," Mr Heape said.

Prince Charles argued that companies and governments were "gradually coming to appreciate, sometimes when it is too late, the almost unstoppable seeds of destruction for the unspoilt parts of our world which drive the quest for travel in the first place".

He railed against "bad-mannered development" and said that there were "too many eyesores in the world designed as cheap, featureless dormitory blocks with no regard to how the building blends in with its surroundings".

He added: "As travel and tourism grow, so does the demand for new hotels and resorts at affordable prices, many in ecologically delicate and desirable sites. So environmentally, socially and aesthetically responsible hotel-siting design and construction is in my view the foundation from which the industry can develop sustainably."

The 13 hotels which meet the IHEI criteria are: Galley Bay, Antigua; Comfort Suites, Bahamas; Biras Creek Resort, British Virgin Islands; Rex Grenadian, Grenada; Half Moon Club, Jamaica; Sandals Resort Negril, Jamaica; Rendezvous, St Lucia; Cauarina Beach Club, Barbados; Cambridge Beaches, Bermuda; La Source, Grenada; Spice Island, Grenada; Swept Away Resorts, Jamaica; Sans Souci Lido, Jamaica.



Biras Creek in the Virgin Islands is one of the resorts to pass the IHEI environment test

## Singapore falls short of its tourism target

BY JON ASHWORTH

SINGAPORE is falling behind in its drive to become the tourism hub of South-East Asia, despite a high-profile advertising campaign spanning two continents.

Visitor arrivals rose only 3 per cent last year — well short of the ambitious target set by Singapore's planners. The city state needs arrivals to rise 6.4 per cent a year to hit its target of ten million visitors by 2000.

The number of visitors tailed off sharply two years ago, prompting planners to rethink their tourism strategy. They are trying to broaden Singapore's appeal, playing on cultural diversity and selling it as a clean, efficient gateway to the beaches of Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

In Japan, the biggest source of visitors to Singapore, subway stations have been blanketed with the theme Singapore Fever. In Taiwan, the theme is Singapore Storm. In the UK, Singapore is sold as an ideal entry point to South-East Asia, using the slogan "So easy to enjoy, so hard to forget".

Tourism chiefs have committed £140 million towards an aggressive promotional campaign but have yet to make significant inroads. Drawbacks include the

strength of the Singapore dollar, which makes accommodation and entertaining expensive, and competition from neighbouring Malaysia, which is fighting fiercely for its own share of the market. Singapore's booming status

is an important source of revenue for Singapore, accounting for 80 per cent of bookings at new hotels such as the Ritz-Carlton Millenia, where rooms cost from \$840 (£186) per night. The hotel opened in January 1996 and has 610 rooms, including 19 executive suites, and is close to the existing conference and exhibition facilities.

Occupancy at Singapore's 29,000 hotel rooms averages 75-80 per cent.

The Singapore Tourist Promotion Board (STPB) remains confident that its tourism drive will pay off. Lin Net Koh, deputy director of corporate development at the STPB, says: "We have not met our target yet, but it takes time." The new convention centre will be a "very important draw" when it comes to pulling in foreign earnings.

Some 7.22 million people visited Singapore last year, 70 per cent of them from within Asia. Japan tops the list, with nearly 12 million arrivals (according to 1995 figures), followed by Indonesia (just over 1 million), Malaysia (681,000) and Taiwan (563,000). The UK leads the field among visitors from Europe, with 288,000 arrivals in 1995, down from a high of 311,000 in 1993.

## Goa cracks down on drugs traffic

BY CATHERINE CHETWYND

POLICE in Goa are cracking down on young tourists found in possession of drugs. "We are not interested in drug tourism," says Inspector General Brar of the Indian police. "The law is very, very severe."

The minimum penalty is ten years' imprisonment for even very small quantities of hashish.

Sue Wheat, of the environmental pressure group Tourism Concern, said: "In Third World countries, the risk of children getting involved with drugs is greater because of the disparity between tourists' lifestyles and that of the local population."

A spokesman for the High Commissioner for India in London said the authorities were fighting a battle of economic realities. "We are trying to promote tourism in the area but don't want that to be at the expense of local traditions."

The issue is broader than drugs. Goa's Roman Catholic Portuguese ancestry, combined with cultural influences,

makes for a strong conservative tradition. Europeans sunbathing in moderation (by our standards) in swimwear cause sufficient interest for Indians to come to Goa simply to look at them.

Phoebe Collins, producer of BBC Radio 1's documentary programme *World Party*, to be broadcast on Sunday at 7pm, said her research suggested the drugs problem was not simply Western tourists corrupting local values and being punished accordingly.

"Many tourists are misinformed of the police," she said. "Visitors all know what baksheesh means — a bribe and many people believe police bust cannabis users specifically to get baksheesh, which can be thousands of pounds."

Inspector General Brar admitted that three policemen had recently been suspended and were facing dismissal for extorting money from two British tourists. "But to brand it as widespread is not correct," he said.

TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

Gap Year special: how to make the most of the year after school

Day trip to Venice — by Eurostar

Eric Jacobs in Honduras

Therese Gordon-Duffy on Verona



## No one profits from a BA strike

Over the past few years we have become used to strikes hitting Air France and other state-owned airlines. But — apart from some sabre-rattling by pilots last year — British Airways has lived through a period of comparative calm.

Because

of this, its customers have remained loyal, despite fierce competition from low-cost airlines and rival "flag carriers". Profits and staff numbers have grown, enabling all 57,000 employees this year to share a £94 million bonus — 3.3 weeks' pay or a minimum of £1,100 each.

But this week a headline in *The Times* read: "BA faces prospect of summer strikes". The story outlined how two groups of workers — all members of, or affiliated to, the Transport and General Workers Union — are being balloted on industrial action. If either group votes in favour, by mid-July British Airways flights will either be grounded or severely disrupted.

The argument centres on BA's search for bigger cost savings. It wants to negotiate with each section separately, wants agreement for changes to working practices and even two-year pay freezes. Only by doing so, BA argues, will it continue making such profits.

Another idea was that the airline should no longer do its own catering. "We must invest in aircraft — not in kitchens," BA said. Nearly every other airline in the world has specialist catering firms to produce their in-flight food and Heathrow was the only airport in the world where BA still did its own catering, it said.

So it was decided to sell off the whole operation to a private company. This "kick in the teeth" proved too much for the T&G, whose members had "made many sacrifices to ensure the profitability of the business". A

row, hints at further action against those who strike and threatens to tear up agreements already reached should there be a strike.

Union officials are means while urging members to "stand up to the playground bully" and whipping up fears that their pay will be cut when it won't. Officials have described BA as acting like "19th-century mill owner". The smaller union Cabin Crew 89 has been described as having anything from 600 to 1,500 members when it actually has 2,967 and is expanding at the rate of 20 a week.

Normally such squabbles have little impact on real people. But this summer millions all over the world expect to fly with BA. It would be outrageous if this quarrel were allowed to disrupt so many travel plans, and it would harm the image of new Britain in the 85 countries BA serves. The disputes can and must be resolved.

## Airline expands Majorca service

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

DEMAND for a new cut-price scheduled air service to Majorca is so great that the airline is increasing the number of flights to three a week in November and plans further expansion next year.

Hundreds of villa and apartment owners and tenants who live in Britain and rely heavily on scheduled airlines to reach their properties were shocked when Iberia suddenly stopped all its flights to Palma at the end of March.

British Airways no longer operates a regular scheduled service to Majorca, so independent travellers not on a package deal had to use either British Midland from Heathrow or last-minute seats on charter flights. With demand far exceeding supply, many were unable to get a seat and prices soared.

However, Future Direct, a small Majorca-based airline which is 85 per cent owned by the Irish carrier Aer Lingus,

obtained a licence to operate on the route from the beginning of this month. The service was flooded with bookings and all 156 economy and 14 business-class seats have been taken on every flight from Gatwick.

Efforts to obtain additional take-off and landing slots foundered because Gatwick is already full at peak times. The earliest the airline can obtain a convenient slot is from November 2 and indications are that this will not be enough. The airline has applied to increase the frequency from next April and more flights will be added if possible.

Future operates a fleet of Boeing 737-400 and offers fares from £99 for the winter. The one-month economy super apex is from £129 return, with business-class seats costing £260 return. These prices are about 20 per cent lower than those charged by rivals.

*Cycling, watersports, angling & beaches?*



## ATHLETICS

## Showdown has more passion than cents

By DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

FOR those who like their athletics to be more than skin deep, the 5,000 metres in the Golden Gala grand prix in Rome tonight should reach the parts that the much-hyped events in Hengelo, Holland, and Toronto last weekend failed to reach. How ironic it would be if the first world record-breaking duel of the season came free of million-dollar incentives and promotional fanfare.

Daniel Komen against Salah Hissou, over 12½ laps is, in one respect, a race in the mould of those held between Donovan Bailey and Michael Johnson in Toronto, and Hafid Gebrselassie and Noureddine Morceli in Hengelo. They meet over a neutral distance: Komen, from Kenya, is the 3,000 metres world record holder; Hissou, from Morocco, is the 10,000 metres world record-holder.

However, less than \$200,000 awaits the winner in appearance and bonus payments even if he breaks the world record, and there will be an element of team racing between the Kenyans and Moroccans.

There is no invertebrate rivalry in athletics like that between these two countries, vividly highlighted by the 1992 Olympic 10,000 metres, when Khalid Stain from Morocco, was disqualified from the gold medal then, while Kenya protested, reinstated.

Aziz Daouda, Hissou's manager, said: "We are going to do great things at the Golden Gala." For Hissou, who ran a personal best 12min 50.80sec last year, that can only mean taking Gebrselassie's world record of 12min 44.39sec. Kim McDonald, Komen's manager, said the Kenyan, who came within a second of the record in Zurich last year, would "come close or break the world record".

Sebastian Coe's 800 metres world record must be vulnerable every time Wilson Kipketer runs the distance, which he does tonight. British interest centres on Linford Christie, in the 100 metres, and Sally Gunnell, in the 400 metres hurdles.



In sport, the camera can be the cruellest critic. Just ask the promoters of the so-called head-to-head showdown between Donovan Bailey and Michael Johnson last weekend.

They know that all the clever camera angles in the world, all the fancy hype and editing, cannot fake the drama of a genuine contest.

Never is this more evident than when the Hollywood film makers get to work on sport. They can hire the best directors, actors and writers, but when it comes to sport on the screen, fiction will always take a beating from the real thing.

Since the earliest days of the cinema, the real thing has scored heavily over embarrassing fictionalized versions of sport, as will be demonstrated at the National Film Theatre next week.

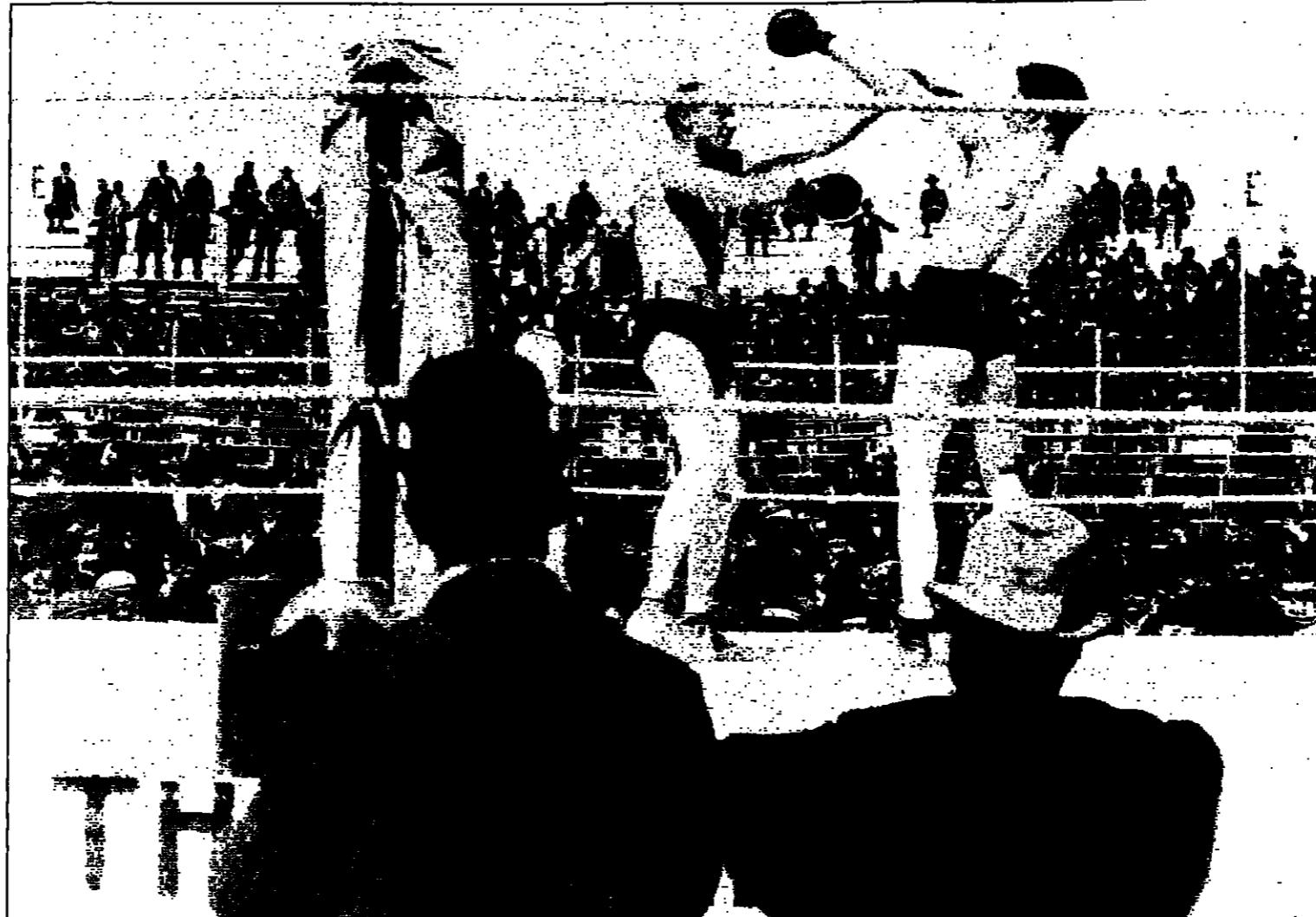
The theatre is celebrating 100 years of boxing films and the highlight of the programme is a flickering, century-old record of the first title bout recorded on film — the battle for the heavyweight championship of the world between the American, "Gentleman" Jim Corbett, and the Cornishman, Bob Fitzsimmons.

They met on March 17, 1897, in Carson City, Nevada, and Corbett, the champion, lost his title to a controversial solar plexus punch in the fourteenth round.

What makes this documentary score so heavily over films such as *Rocky* is the seductive detail and the authenticity of the action. Corbett was, at 30, an elegant boxer who sported a bountiful hairstyle and fancied himself as an actor. He was a snappy dresser and the film shows him wearing a pair of shorts cut alarmingly high. Fitzsimmons, at 34, was something of a contrast. He had amazing upper-body development as a result of his work as a blacksmith but, at 156lbs, his legs were very skinny. He was described vividly as a fighting machine on stilts.

Before the contest, Sheriff Bat Masterson, the famous Western marshal, and his deputies collected more than 400 guns from customers at the gates. Another sheriff, Wyatt Earp, stood guard in Corbett's corner with a loaded six-gun.

"After the fight was finished," one



Brief encounter: Corbett, right, sporting high-cut shorts, fends off an assault by Fitzsimmons during their encounter in Carson City

contemporary report noted, "the beaten combatant, on his partial recovery, became frantic, broke away from his seconds, and rushed about after his conqueror, striking blindly left and right, his seconds having finally to carry him by force from the ring".

Although this was the first successful film of a genuine bout, some exhibition matches had been filmed as early as 1894. These could only be seen as peepshows, not on a screen, and must be the first examples of pay-per-view sport.

One of these, shot in a studio, featured Corbett against Peter Courtney. When Fitzsimmons went to America he had never seen Corbett fight, but he is said to have sized up his opponent by watching him on the peepshow footage.

The film of their title contest lasted for an hour and a half and was soon a sensation on both sides of the Atlantic. It was in such demand that pirated copies appeared and fakes

### 'It is the toe-curling lack of reality that upsets most sports lovers'

were made with actors playing Corbett and Fitzsimmons.

These fooled nobody and were so ridiculous that they had the audiences rolling with laughter — an experience that anyone who has sat through a fictionalized sporting melodrama in the cinema will share.

For there is nothing as awful in a sporting feature film as those unforgettable moments when the director utterly fails to capture the authenticity of a contest.

Who can forget the ludicrous goalkeeping of Sylvester Stallone in *Escape to Victory*? In this appalling prisoner of war story, the Allies field a football team that includes Stallone and Michael Caine alongside Pelé and Bobby Moore.

When he gets into shorts, Stallone has a lot to answer for. You will find him in yet more unconvincing sporting action in the *Rocky* films, where he always fails to take the final count, despite ever-increasing evidence of brain damage.

It is the toe-curling lack of reality that upsets most sports lovers when they watch fictionalized contests. I train sometimes with a veteran runner whose finest cinematic moment was as an extra in a quaint 1970 film, *The Games*. The plot tells of four marathon runners preparing for the Rome Olympics, and if you allow this one-time extra to draw breath on a run he will tell you how, despite endless takes, he and other athletes repeatedly failed to run

slowly enough to make Charles Aznavour look like Emile Zapotek.

Significantly, in recent times, the only sport feature films that have credibility are those such as *Hoop Dreams* and *When We Were Kings*, which use documentary footage.

There are no such problems for the National Film Theatre. As well as the Corbett v Fitzsimmons bout, they are showing the first black heavyweight champion, Jack Johnson, beating Jim Jeffries in 1910, Jack Dempsey against Georges Carpentier in 1921 and the rematch between Joe Louis and Max Schmeling in 1938.

So forget the cinema gang of actors who can't play and players who can't act. When it comes to a sporting film, the real thing will beat the fiction every time — even if it is silent, black and white, flickering and 100 years old.

*Battles of the Century* will be screened at the NFT (0171 928 3232) on Tuesday, June 10 (6.30pm).

Andrew Lloyd Webber  
Banbury

### Calzaghe's march unlikely to be halted

By SRIKUMAR SEN  
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

JOE CALZAGHE, the unbeaten Welsh super-middleweight, continues on his march towards a world title in the autumn at Whitchurch, Bristol, tonight. He meets Luciano Torres, from Brazil.

Since only two of Calzaghe's opponents have managed to last more than five rounds — 16 of them falling in one, six in two — it is most unlikely that Torres will stay around too long.

As a result of his successes, Calzaghe is convinced he is the best super-middleweight in the world and boxing fans will be watching to see how efficiently he dispatches the Brazilian.

Torres is not a great threat as he does not carry a heavy enough punch to test the Welshman seriously, nor is he sufficiently skilled to cause too many problems.

Now 31, Torres has had 46 contests, of which he has lost two. He was stopped in one round by Yoriboy Campas, the Mexican welterweight, but, despite that setback five years ago, Torres was highly regarded and was the World Boxing Association's (WBA) No 1 challenger last year.

Frank Warren signed him but he disappointed in his last appearance in October, after which somebody asked Warren if he was still on his books. Warren replied: "He is not even in my library."

It is unlikely that Torres will do anything this time to make Warren change his view about his boxing. Calzaghe should provide a quick finish and help ticket sales for the world title bout.

□ Joe Bugner, 47, retained his Pan Asian Boxing Association heavyweight title on the Gold Coast, Australia, on Tuesday night with a seventh-round knockout of Waisiki Ligalao, the Fijian champion. The former British, Commonwealth and European champion stopped Ligalao midway through the seventh round with a right to the jaw that sent his opponent sprawling. Bugner, ranked eleventh by the WBA, twice went the distance with Muhammad Ali in Ali's prime.

THE TIMES

YESTERDAY'S PAPER

## THE GREAT FORD GIVE-AWAY.

PAGE  
16

TURN TO PAGE 16.

SAILING: MILES PASS SLOWLY IN ATLANTIC FOR CREW OF CONCERT

### Tension starts to surface after five lazy weeks in paradise

OF ALL the legs in the BT Global Challenge, I always thought that this one — the fifth and penultimate stage from Cape Town to Boston — was potentially the most enjoyable. After the hard work and trauma of the Southern Ocean, a five-week trip up the Atlantic, with warm sunshine and the chance to relax, seemed the perfect sequel. But it has turned into something of an anticlimax.

Not for one moment do I wish I was back in the wilds of the Southern Ocean, but we don't have enough to do now and, in a masochistic sort of way, I think we all miss the adrenaline rush that was a key part of the tougher stages of the race.

Stress levels on this leg have been higher in the last couple of weeks than at any time in the past nine months. This could be put down to the tea-bag crisis. We overindulged during the first two weeks and are now left with just six tea bags per day between 14 people. A better explanation is that we are not much good at doing nothing. After surviving some of the worst seas in the world, five weeks in "paradise" is just too easy.

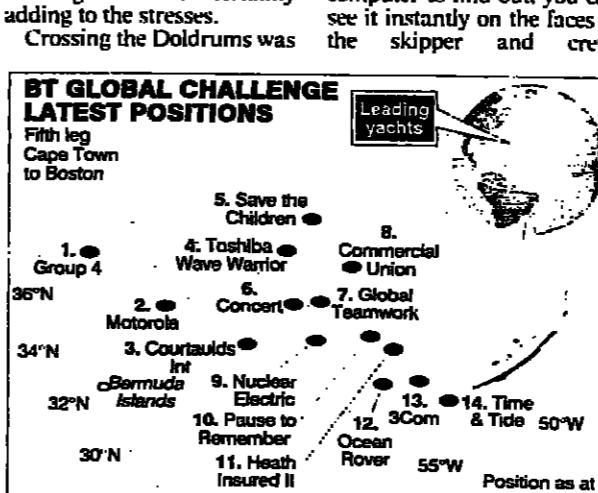
The extra time is filled with reading and there is a thriving black market in the limited supply of books on board. Sarah, the ship's medic, has tried and failed miserably to

Lucy Duncan, with time to kill, yearns for more challenging waters and a tea party in Boston

dy her hair blonde with bleach and there have been loads of competitions invented by two crew members who have joined just for this leg.

Despite all this, the tensions created by living in a confined space for long periods with 13 other people have come nearer the surface than at any time in the race. By our own standards, we are doing badly on this leg, which is certainly adding to the stresses.

Crossing the Doldrums was



### Golding closes in on fourth-leg victory

By EDWARD GORMAN  
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

WITH stronger winds favouring the yachts at the head of the fleet, Mike Golding's Group 4 yesterday extended her lead over Mark Lodge, on *Motorola*, by a further 36 miles, as the leaders in the BT Global Challenge begin their final run into Boston.

Golding, who is bidding for a fourth stage win out of five, has established an insurmountable lead over Lodge, in second place, with a margin in terms of distance to the finish of around 165 miles. Yesterday Group 4 had just 600 miles still to sail and was expected to reach Boston by Saturday morning.

With *Motorola* about 142 miles ahead

of *Courtaulds International* in third place, the top two positions for the leg seem settled. However, Boris Webber, on *Courtaulds*, has his work cut out to hold his placing — easily his best on a long leg with Simon Walker, on *Toshiba Wave Warrior*, and Andy Hindley, on *Save The Children*, who are scrapping for second and third places overall, close on his heels.

Marcus Hutchinson, of Great Britain, and Michel Desjoyeaux, of France, are still leading the double-handed *Tour de Bretagne*, after finishing fifth yesterday in the offshore race overnight from Perros Guirec to Douarnenez.

The race, which was characterised by light airs and very strong tides, was won by the Vendée Globe survivor, Thierry

Dubois, sailing with Christophe Godard. One casualty was the former single-handed transatlantic winner, Philippe Ponpon, on *Fleury Michon*, who put his 31ft Beneteau-Figaro on the rocks shortly after the start, but managed to recover to finish sixteenth. Damian Foxall, of Ireland, on *DHL*, is eleventh overall with five races to come.

In the Corel Mumm 36 world championships at Punta Ala, Italy, the key offshore race, which commands more points than any other in the series, got under way in light airs. John Merricks, of Great Britain, on *Bradamante*, who was second overall going into the race, made a good start and was clocked in third position with about two thirds of the race to sail.

Andrew Longmore meets a trainer hoping to fashion victory from his first Derby runner

# Hanbury tailors Fahrис to demands of Epsom

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

These are testing times for Ben Hanbury. Not only has he the task of nursing his Derby horse, Fahrис, through to the great day, he has to decide what to wear. No mean decision for one of racing's nastiest dressers.

Surprisingly, for a man of his training pedigree, Fahrис will be Hanbury's first Derby runner. Hence the jitters. He has won the Oaks and the 1,000 Guineas with the flying Midway Lady, had 700 winners, including eight group one races, in a 25-year career, but the Derby has never come within range. Kala Dancer, a high-class two-year-old, caught pneumonia. Bin Ajwaad — his best chance — fractured a pastern in the French 2,000 Guineas.

In the unsociable, tight-lipped world of Flat racing, Hanbury is a throwback to a more expansive age. He calls you "good man", wears pink slacks and yellow cardigans and packs his golf clubs for a week at Chester races.

The motto over the entrance to his Diomed Stables in Newmarket should read "Open 24 hours a day" because he has this quaint notion that his sport should be made available to the public. Visitors are given guided tours of his yard.

"The bigger trainers wouldn't let you in," he said. "But I've had letters from people in Scotland, Dorset, all over the country, thanking me for letting them into my yard. They think you're too busy to bother, but you're never too busy because you're working for them."

Hanbury is a talented self-



Hanbury: testing times

publicist, one of the few to send out brochures and to employ a public relations firm. At times, only his extrovert nature has kept him in business. When Ravi Tikoo, his main owner, took 50 horses away from Hanbury's new £1 million yard, almost overnight, Hanbury went ahead with the purchase of 20 yearlings, photographed them and sent details to everyone he could think of round the world. He sold the lot. "Unfor-

one races and he has one? If Fahrис goes wrong, the season is lost."

"It's like a hand of cards. The more cards you have, the more likely you are to have a royal flush. I consider myself to be a good trainer as Stoute and Cecil, but they're more likely to get a full hand."

Perhaps he has trumpeted too loudly for a sport which revolves on whispers or been deemed too extravagant for such a hard-nosed business. He has fun, which is viewed with suspicion, and has a house ten miles outside Newmarket so that he can divorce himself from his work.

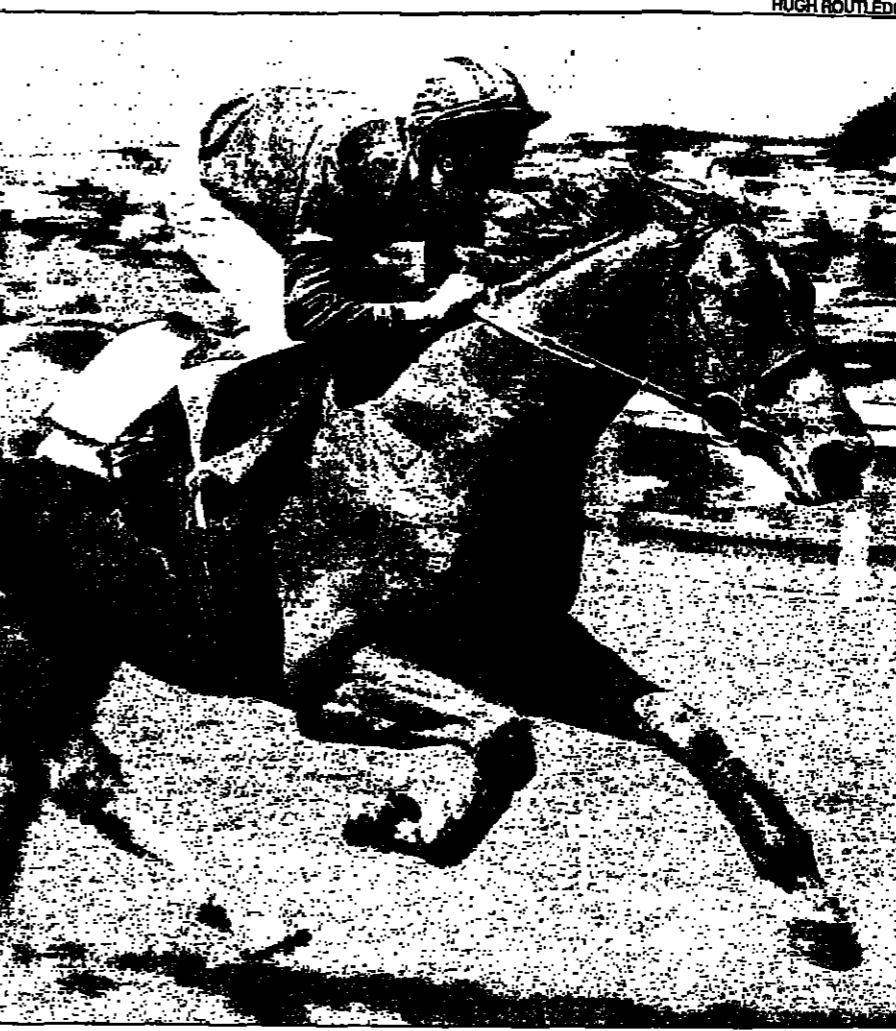
"I didn't want my children brought up in all the muck and swearing," he reasoned. "I work damn hard, but racing is not the be all and end all of life. I love my golf and tennis."

Hanbury might just have struck lucky with Fahrис, who was transferred out of the now retired Tom Jones's stable last year. Hanbury picked Fahrис first of his three choices, but presumed other more powerful trainers would do the same. "I was immediately taken by his presence. He was very athletic, very well balanced and he had shown some talent as a two-year-old. But I fully expected him to go to someone else," he said.

Having recovered from a recent sinus operation, Fahrис, who won the Foden Stakes at Newmarket's Craven meeting in taking style, is looking the part again. However, the betting suggests a wonder horse from across town will ensure the rest are competing for place money.

That an Entrepreneur should emerge just as he has a

realistic chance for Derby glory would be typical of Hanbury's luck. But his first reaction on seeing Entrepreneur's sweeping victory in the 2,000 Guineas was to welcome a new star ("horses like that



Mark Rimmer sports his silks as Fahrис is put through his paces in a gallop between races at Newmarket

benefit everyone"); the second was to check up on his pedigree. Would Entrepreneur stay the Derby trip?

"I'll be sustained by the suggestion he won't. If he does, we might as well stay at a new one."

home because he could be better than Shergar. My concern is to have life after the Derby. Fahrис could be beaten five lengths and go on to win a group one race somewhere else."

Or he could win the Derby and prove that men with a penchant for pink and yellow can be winners too! It would be just reward for Hanbury and the best promotion campaign of his life.

## Injury setback for First Island

LEADING miler First Island faces an uncertain future after sustaining an injury on the gallops yesterday. The Geoff Wragg-trained five-year-old was operated on yesterday and will miss his intended target at Royal Ascot.

"First Island's racing career looks in doubt after he suffered a spiral fracture of the right cannon bone while working on Newmarket Heath this morning," Wragg reported yesterday.

"His next race would have been the Queen Anne Stakes at Ascot. He will be undergoing surgery today and there is every hope that the operation will be successful."

Losing First Island would be a bitter blow for Wragg and his owners, Mollers Racing. The horse has proved a bargain for the £130,000 guineas he cost as a yearling.

He graduated from listed class to collect the group one Sussex Stakes at Goodwood and the valuable Hong Kong International Cup at Sha Tin last year. He landed his second group one victory in the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury last month.

First Island's injury follows that of Time Allowed, Michael Stoute's Coronation Cup hope, who fractured an off-kid pastern during routine work on Monday and was operated on and her leg put in a cast.

## Jenyns demoted again after York incident

JOHN JENYNS has been banned from acting as chairman of a stewards' panel until 1999, at the earliest. The Thirsk solicitor has been penalised for a well-publicised incident at York last month when his brusque treatment of two Channel 4 executives attracted widespread criticism.

Jenyns subsequently resigned from the York stewards' panel and the Jockey Club disciplinary committee met on Monday to consider a letter of complaint from Channel 4 regarding the affair. The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two courses. David Pipe, Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The chairman is the most important guy on the panel. Because John Jenyns made an error of judgment, it was considered inappropriate that he should continue to act in that role."

The committee found

John Jenyns

Jenyns guilty of an error of judgment, which he admitted, and ruled it inappropriate for him to continue to act as chairman of the stewards' panel at Pontefract and Redcar.

But he will be able to continue to serve as a member of the panel at the two

GOLF: TWO BRITISH WALKER CUP PLAYERS BEATEN IN SECOND ROUND OF AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP AT SANDWICH

# Howard unfazed by sideways bounce

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

WHEN you are just about the best amateur in Great Britain, you can be blasé about the Walker Cup. When your place in the team against the United States in August is virtually assured, then you can say what you like about the event. When you are 44, playing the best golf of your career and have missed only one cut in four years of amateur golf, you are entitled to be relaxed about it.

Philipson, meanwhile, had driven left, the better to open up the green. His ball was in thick rough but his spirits were buoyed by seeing where Rankin's ball ended. With some of the pressure lifted, he played a better shot than he probably would have done had Rankin's ball ended on the green.

"I am a lot different about the Walker Cup to the way I was two years ago," Howard said after recovering from being three down after four holes to win 2 and 1. "I was so upright then it was a joke. I

watch the video all the time – even though 90 per cent of it is Gordon Sherry."

Howard's victory was marked by a bizarre incident on the 17th. His second shot was heading towards the flag when it hit a sprinkler head in front of the green and shot off sideways into a bunker. "Hello," Howard thought to himself. "Is somebody trying to tell me something?"

If they were it did not work. He hit a beautifully judged bunker shot to five feet and holed the putt for a par that gave him victory. Howard then walked back to support Graham Rankin, a fellow Scot, against Shaun Phillipson, an England reserve for last year's home internationals who had beaten Shaun Webster, the English champion, in the morning.

Rankin needed more than support: an implant of some of Howard's grey matter would not have gone amiss for he played the 18th as if he was not thinking. Having just taken the lead by holing from 20 feet on the 17th, Rankin, a very

powerful hitter, chose an iron from the next tee. His first mistake was to hit his ball to the right of the fairway, from where he had a very difficult shot to the flag, which is well-guarded by a bunker. His second mistake was to aim for the flag and end in that bunker. He would have been better off in Duncan's Hollow to the left of the green.

Philipson, meanwhile, had



Matt Carver, of West Kent, the leading qualifier, plays towards the cooling towers from the 9th tee at Royal St George's yesterday

## Montgomerie predicts plane sailing

BY MEL WEBB

COLIN MONTGOMERIE, who heads the cast list of the Compaq European Grand Prix which starts today, arrived at Stalay Hall, Northumbria, in bullish mood.

Infuriating though he can be at times, he is never frightened to be publicly self-critical when things are going wrong, and is equally prepared to bang the drum when his form is on an upward spiral. He says he is feeling good this week – the rest had better watch out.

Montgomerie, second in the Ryder Cup points list, will be without a challenge. The involvement this year of Compaq has given this tournament a £650,000 shot in the arm, and the consequence is

that 12 of the leading 20 players in the Cup list are present, including Miguel Angel Martin, Costantino Rocca, Lee Westwood and Paul Broadhurst.

Montgomerie goes into the tournament in gung-ho mood. Yes, he said, there had been a technical problem in his third-round 76 at the Volvo PGA Championship, when he was hitting everything to the right, sometimes wildly so. But he had fixed it and proved it by walzing to a 64 in the final round at Wentworth to push himself up to fifth place.

In the PGA European Tour Guide, the European No 1 lists do-it-yourself as one of his hobbies and that applies whether he is erecting shelves at his home in Surrey or placing a spirit level on his

swing when it goes skew-whiff. Montgomerie split with Bill Ferguson, his long-time coach, last year and now tends his own technique. He fished the hammer and nails out of the mental toolbox marked "swing" after that calamitous 76 and found that something needed attention.

The technical explanation would be incomprehensible to anybody but an advanced student, but what it boiled down to was the fact that his backswing was in the wrong plane.

"I was getting too far outside the line, so I made myself get it back more inside," he said. "Those who are already lagging behind should not be concerned; this was esoteric, almost mystical stuff. For all anybody knew, he might have

been speaking in Swahili. And there was more.

"Actually, it feels like I'm going back inside, but in fact it is going straight back," he added. His interlocutors were looking more baffled by the second, so they changed the subject.

Montgomerie is choosing to

prepare for the US Open at

Concord, in Maryland, next week, by playing here instead of competing in the Kemper Open.

"There is no set textbook

rule for playing or resting the

week before a major," he said.

"At the moment I'm in playing mode."

Montgomerie was due to

have appeared in the Tournam

ent Players' Championship of

Europe last week, but opted to

take the week off and play at

Slaley Hall instead. "I'm very fortunate to be able to play where I want these days, and I'm very glad I came here," he said. "I haven't been in contention enough this year, but I intend to be this week."

Montgomerie said. "Enough said.

Montgomerie is choosing to

prepare for the US Open at

Concord, in Maryland, next week, by playing here instead of competing in the Kemper Open.

"There is no set textbook

rule for playing or resting the

week before a major," he said.

"At the moment I'm in playing mode."

Montgomerie was due to

have appeared in the Tournam

ent Players' Championship of

Europe last week, but opted to

take the week off and play at

## FOOTBALL

### French pair sign for Arsenal

BY DAVID MADDOCK

THERE is a corner of north London that is fast becoming a little piece of home for Arsène Wenger. The Arsenal manager took his contingent of French players to Highbury yesterday to five, by signing the Monaco pair, Gilles Grimandi and Emmanuel Petit, for a combined fee of £15 million.

Both are defenders and both are 27. Petit is the more experienced after joining Monaco in 1985 and winning 15 caps when he played under Wenger, who was coach at the Monte Carlo club in the early 1990s. Grimandi did not make his debut for Monaco until 1990 and has won international honours only with the French military.

Wenger has also stepped up his interest in Marc Overmars of Ajax, but he may lose David Platt if Platt agrees to move to Japan.

Juminho, the Brazilian international, is still unsure of his future. The player is becoming increasingly anxious over his club, Middlesbrough, failing to accept any offer so far from clubs interested in removing him from the Riverside Stadium.

Graeme Souness, who walked out of the job as Southampton manager a week ago, could make a swift return to football with Torino, of Italy. He entered talks with the Serie B club yesterday and is reported to have suggested to the Italian media that he is close to agreeing a deal.

Marlin O'Neill, the Leicester City manager, took one step further to end speculation about a possible move elsewhere yesterday when he put his name to a three-year contract.

One transfer to be completed yesterday was the signing of Alf Inge Haaland by Leeds United. The Norway striker had reached the end of his contract with Nottingham Forest, and Leeds are hoping to sign him for free under the Bosman ruling. Forest, for their part, have completed the signing of Kevin Miller, the Watford goalkeeper.

## Results 47

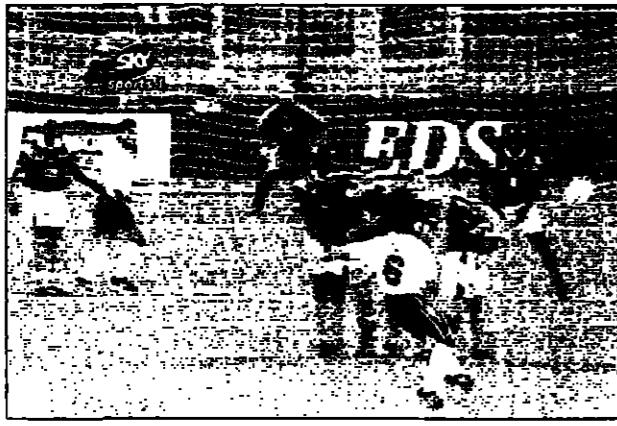
watch the video all the time – even though 90 per cent of it is Gordon Sherry."

Howard's victory was marked by a bizarre incident on the 17th. His second shot was heading towards the flag when it hit a sprinkler head in front of the green and shot off sideways into a bunker. "Hello," Howard thought to himself. "Is somebody trying to tell me something?"

If they were it did not work. He hit a beautifully judged bunker shot to five feet and holed the putt for a par that gave him victory. Howard then walked back to support Graham Rankin, a fellow Scot, against Shaun Phillipson, an England reserve for last year's home internationals who had beaten Shaun Webster, the English champion, in the morning.

Rankin needed more than support: an implant of some of Howard's grey matter would not have gone amiss for he played the 18th as if he was not thinking. Having just taken the lead by holing from 20 feet on the 17th, Rankin, a very

## Brazilian swerves into fast lane of football fame



With Roberto Carlos airborne, left, the ball begins its



bewitching journey past the French wall before, centre, arcing back towards the goal and, left, inside Barthez's post

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON  
IN LYONS

LYONS, one of the venues for the World Cup finals next summer, has much to recommend it, with an abundance of museums, cinemas and theatres. On June 22, 1995, The Beatles set up residence at the Hotel Royal in the Place Bellecour, in June 1996, the British delegation chose the same luxury accommodation, standing between the Rhône and Saône rivers, while attending the G7 summit.

France's second city is similarly proud of its gastronomic expertise. Renaissance architecture and production of silk. It is also waiting, with great expectation, to host five matches in the 1998 World Cup, including one of the quarter-finals. Its preparations for a 32-country, multicultural experience of staggering proportions are gathering pace.

On June 3, 1997, however, Lyons entered the consciousness of a global audience of millions for another reason –

the Roberto Carlos free kick. From that moment on, in the sultry evening heat of the Rhône-Alpes, the Stade de Gerland will always be remembered as the venue for that goal.

Roberto Carlos's sublime first-half strike from 34.6 yards in the 1-1 draw between France and Brazil on Tuesday, the opening match of the four-nation Tournoi de France, produced a snake-like effect.

As the ball spun off the outside of the Brazilian defender's left foot, powered to a peak of 55.2mph after his run-up of more than ten yards, it first swerved extravagantly around the defensive wall and away from goal.

Didier Deschamps, standing helplessly on the outside of the four-strong wall, glanced backwards to track its route. He, like his team-mates, probably expected it to continue on its wayward path and take out either an advertising hoarding, stray photographer or inattentive ballboy. It did not.

Having passed Deschamps,

it darted back in, elegantly, in a broad, sweeping arc. It nipped the left-hand post of Fabien Barthez, the France goalkeeper, and nestled in the net. Barthez, who had barely moved a muscle, stared in disbelief.

The Frenchman was less than charitable. "I positioned

the wall badly," he said. "Once the ball was hit, it was too late for me. I think the goal was my fault."

On reflection, he added: "It's true, it was a superb shot. It was too fast, I thought it was going out."

Only after watching the

replays, from the angle behind

Roberto Carlos, could the goal

be fully appreciated. It got

better with every viewing,

such was its exquisite execution and entrancing flight. It

was a thing of great beauty, an

automatic entry into the

sport's hall of fame.

Yet apart from Beckham,

and perhaps Paul Gascoigne

in his prime, few British

performers can persuade a

ball to twist, turn and swirl in

mid-air, at pace, before crossing the goal-line. It is a mostly

Latin trait, borne of natural

flair rather than constant

coaching.

As Roberto Carlos wheeled

away to celebrate his mar-

velous expression of the beau-

ti pitch, the French supporters

began to realise what they had

witnessed, he ran towards the

opposite end of the Stade de

Gerland. Masking the tempo-

rary building site, which will

disappear by the time of the

World Cup, finals arrive, was

a giant mural depicting the

faces of 32 of the world's most

distinguished players.

England have the players in

match such South American

dynamism. David Beckham,

the Manchester United mid-

field player, scored a goal

against Chelsea in 31

international matches.

England have the players in

match such South American

dynamism. David Beckham,

the Manchester United mid-

field player, scored a goal

against Chelsea in 31

international matches.

Didi, Garrincha, Pelé, Zico

and Rivelino, the Brazilian

immortals, looked down on

Roberto Carlos. On June 3,

1997, in Lyons, perhaps he

earned the right to join them.

was from a distance of only 14.8 yards.

</



Beleaguered Australia captain prepares for his moment of truth in the Edgbaston Test

# Taylor defiant as critics mount relentless assault

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HE WOKE yesterday to find one more old colleague, one more imagined friend, joining the queue to destroy him. And, being the man he is, he picked himself up, pulled on the trusty green cap and fronted up to an inquisitive, even predatory world with dignity, charm and presence.

Whatever Mark Taylor may have become since English cricket last encountered him, he has not stopped being a good bloke. It is for this reason that he is receiving a sympathetic audience here amid his toils, and why the majority of the country would be happy to see him score 50 at Edgbaston today, so long as it came in an Australian total of 96 all out.

Taylor's batting form has collapsed. This much is certain. His captaincy is suffering and his standing in the Australia dressing-room is no longer unquestioned. It must sometimes seem that his world is falling apart, yet still there is no public sign of resentment, much less of the weeping retreat favoured by one of his predecessors.

Taylor, chin jutting characteristically, will stride out with Michael Atherton this morning, the captains in role reversal. England's man has never been more secure, while his Australian counterpart knows he is one bad match from the end of the line. Atherton, quite rightly, revels in any consequent disruption of the opposition plans, but he bristles at mockery of Taylor.

The cheap and tacky trick played by a tabloid newspaper last week, ambushing Taylor for a snatched photograph

players. "These people are damaging the prospects of the side by what they are saying. They must know that," he said. "Some of the things said and written about me have got very personal. That's just the way it is these days. You have to be thick-skinned as Australian captain."

Atherton has had his fill of gamekeepers turning poachers in this way. The cheque book speaks loudly to former players or officials with an axe to grind and the England captain has never cared for it. "I take no pleasure at all from media pressure on the Australian captain," he said. "I have been through it myself too often to enjoy someone else's suffering."

That Taylor has suffered is plain enough. Even this patient, affable, eminently approachable man has frayed around the edges in recent weeks as the scrutiny has intensified. "It's too much to say I've gone through hell, but it certainly hasn't been a pleasant time," he said assessingly. "That's why I am looking forward to the cricket starting so that everyone has something else to talk about."

In this measured way he defended his position. "I am not the only selector on tour," he said. "It has been a committee decision that I should play in every game, while we try to arrive at our best Test side. Because of the short build-up, this inevitably means that others have suffered."

Specifically, Michael Slater and Ricky Ponting have been victims of the grand obsession to restore Taylor's form.

Within an over-large party of 17, there has not been sufficient cricket for them to even make a claim for a Test place.

Though he is indirectly to blame, Taylor expresses public sympathy for the pair. In private, he has gone into the situation in more detail and invited Slater and Ponting, in turn, to discussions in his hotel room in Derby over the weekend.

"I've spoken to them both individually," he said yesterday. "There is no problem. In all of this, the support of the other players has been paramount to me." So long as that continues to hold, Taylor will survive. If the cracks show in the next few days, he will no longer be able to resist the clamour of celebrity executives.

Taylor, however, has a message for those who hound him, particularly the former

players. "These people are

damaging the prospects of the

side by what they are saying.

They must know that," he

said. "Some of the things said

and written about me have got

very personal. That's just the

way it is these days. You have

to be thick-skinned as Australian

captain."

Simpson worked closely with Taylor through the first year of his captaincy and it was hardly a timely intervention on behalf of an old workmate fallen on hard times to say: "By backing Taylor so strongly, the selectors have not faced up to reality. Now the team is in a real pickle."

Taylor has grown accustomed to such gibes, so much

that he hesitates to pick up a newspaper for fear of discovering another old ally turning against him. He can be saddened by it, though no longer surprised. His recent batting record — 153 runs in nine Test innings against West Indies and South Africa — is dire, and he has shown few signs on this tour of rediscovering touch and technique.

In his measured way he defended his position. "I am not the only selector on tour," he said. "It has been a committee decision that I should play in every game, while we try to arrive at our best Test side. Because of the short build-up, this inevitably means that others have suffered."

Mike Gatting's side had already reclaimed the Ashes and, after 14 successive Tests

without a victory, Australia were so thankful to have

broken the spell that in their

dressing-room afterwards

there were, quite literally,

tears of relief.

When, at the time, I told the

estimable and now venerable

Gatting that Australia's need

was much greater than En-

gland's, he would have none

of it, and that was as it should

have been. For two years,

though, Australia had been

through just as difficult a time

as England have recently and

come in for at least as much

derision.

In winning the three one-

day matches for the Texaco

Trophy, England played their

most convincing and encour-

aging cricket for a long time.

They made their chances and

took them, raising hopes

thereby and greatly boosting

morale. The hard work starts

this morning, however. Test

matches are not about stop-

ping the opposition from scor-

ing more than five runs an

over. They are about tempera-

ment and stamina and, ultimately, about bowling sides

out, not once but twice; which

brings us back to Warne and

on to McGrath and Gillespie

and to the England attack.

It is tempting providence to

say so, but Warne no longer

looks to me to be quite the

wonderful bowler that he was

in England four years ago

and in the first two Tests of

England's last tour of Australia.

No wrist spinner ever got

as much work on the ball as

he has in his time without his

tears of relief.

Today, at Edgbaston, they

take the field as the most

lauded Test side in the world,

and the main reason for that

is not that they have a host of

very good batsmen, which

they do, nor that their domes-

tic cricket set-up is more ad-

vantageous than En-

gland's, which may or may

not be so, nor that they are

obligatorily aggressive. It is

because they have the climate

and the playing conditions to

have found, first in Craig

McDermott and then in

Shane Warne, bowlers to win

them more than the occasional

Test match and to give them

the confidence that comes from

doing so.



Taylor in the nets at Edgbaston yesterday where he continued the struggle to regain his elusive form on the eve of the first match of the series

## Pitch must hit exactly the right note

In view of what has happened since, it seems hardly believable that a bare ten years ago I wrote of England's defeat at Sydney in the last Test match of their 1986-87 tour of Australia as being "in a good cause".

Mike Gatting's side had already reclaimed the Ashes and, after 14 successive Tests

without a victory, Australia were so thankful to have

broken the spell that in their

dressing-room afterwards

there were, quite literally,

tears of relief.

When, at the time, I told the

estimable and now venerable

Gatting that Australia's need

was much greater than En-

gland's, he would have none

of it, and that was as it should

have been. For two years,

though, Australia had been

through just as difficult a time

as England have recently and

come in for at least as much

derision.

In winning the three one-

day matches for the Texaco

Trophy, England played their

most convincing and encour-

aging cricket for a long time.

They made their chances and

took them, raising hopes

thereby and greatly boosting

morale. The hard work starts

this morning, however. Test

matches are not about stop-

ping the opposition from scor-

ing more than five runs an

over. They are about tempera-

ment and stamina and, ultimately, about bowling sides

out, not once but twice; which

brings us back to Warne and

on to McGrath and Gillespie

and to the England attack.

It is tempting providence to

say so, but Warne no longer

looks to me to be quite the

wonderful bowler that he was

in England four years ago

and in the first two Tests of

England's last tour of Australia.

No wrist spinner ever got

as much work on the ball as

he has in his time without his

tears of relief.

Today, at Edgbaston, they

take the field as the most

lauded Test side in the world,

and the main reason for that

is not that they have a host of

very good batsmen, which

they do, nor that their domes-

tic cricket set-up is more ad-

vantageous than En-

gland's, which may or may

not be so, nor that they are

obligatorily aggressive. It is</p

CRICKET: FAST BOWLERS CAUSE HAVOC AS 21 WICKETS FALL IN COURSE OF HECTIC AND BEWILDERING DAY AT TAUNTON



Shine: repeat performance

By PAT GIBSON

**TAUNTON** (first day of four; Lancashire won toss): Lancashire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 61 runs behind Somerset**THERE** has been some extraordinary cricket over the years in matches involving Somerset and Lancashire. Four, in fact, have finished inside a day, Lancashire winning them all — at Manchester in 1892, 1894 and 1925, and Bath in 1953 when poor old Bertie Buse was having his benefit.

It is hard to believe, however, that any of them were quite as inexplicable as this one. Lancashire, who went in to bat just as the sun was burning the last of the mist off the

Quintocks, were bowled out for 88 in 22 overs and one ball. Then Somerset, having cruised to 113 for one, lost their last nine wickets for 76.

With 21 wickets falling in the day, the umpires were obliged to notify Lord's of the strange goings-on, yet not even Nigel Plews, a former detective sergeant, could find any suspicious circumstances. Certainly there was nothing wrong with the pitch.

It was an odd, muddy colour, when the covers were taken off and it did change its complexion during the day. But that does not explain why Kevin Shine, of Somerset, Kevin Shine took seven for 43 and Lancashire's Peter Martin and Glenn Chapple responded with four wickets apiece.

Perhaps Dav Whatmore, the Lancashire coach, provided the answer when he talked about bad bating and decent bowling, although that was faint praise for Shine who could never have bowled better in his nine seasons shared between Hampshire, Middlesex and now Somerset. If he is ever to seek a fourth county, Lancashire would probably oblige. They have not forgotten how he took a career best eight for 47, including a hat-trick, for Hampshire against them at Old Trafford in 1992.

The Lancashire batsmen did give him every encouragement. Gallian hit his second ball to square leg, where Burns dived forward to take a fine catch and both Titchard and McKeown, the replacements for Atherton and Crawley, went back when

they should have been forward and were pinned leg-before.

Van Troost, playing his first championship match of the season, got into the act when Lloyd, perhaps surprised to find the ball so close to him, tried to cut and was caught behind before Shine produced the delivery of the day to extract Fairbrother's middle stump.

Watkinson tried to hit his way out of trouble, with 33 off 44 balls, but then he drove Rose to mid-off and with Shine removing Austin, Hegg and Martin and Rose getting Chapple caught behind first ball, the Lancashire innings was over in a shorter time than any in the championship for two years.

It looked as though Somerset might go the same way when Martin

and Chapple soon began to find the edges, but after Lathwell had been caught at second slip, Bowler and Holloway settled into a second-wicket partnership of 70 which showed that there was nothing for good batsmen to worry about.

Then Martin found the right length to claim Holloway and Hardman leg-before with successive balls and Chapple slipped into the mode that brought him six for 18 in last year's NatWest Trophy final, so that despite some lusty blows from Parsons and Mushtaq, the Somerset lead was restricted to 101. There was still time for Van Troost to force Gallian to retire hurt after a blow on the fingers and Rose to bowl McKeown before Lancashire ended at 40 for one.

**Lord's told as wickets tumble on pitch with two paces**

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

**HEADINGLEY** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Yorkshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**GLOUCESTERSHIRE**, a lofty second in the championship table, still have no individual century-maker in the competition, though morally, Monte Lynch deserved one. Lynch, with typical, refreshing freedom of strokeplay in the context of this traditional game, made 60, with 13 fours, from 37 balls.

Mastery over this curious two-paced pitch, on which 16 wickets tumbled to eight different bowlers, was inevitably transient. The odd ball misbehaved and bounded steeply off a length, notably to Michael Vaughan. He suffered a cracked bone in the left wrist after being struck by Michael Smith and could be absent for three weeks. As per regulations when 15 or more wickets fall in a day, the umpires, John Hampshire and Trevor Jesty, notified Lord's.

Some deliveries kept low, but the most mortal wounds were to batsmen's ego. With two successive wins and a nine-place rise to seventh, Yorkshire went from the elation of bowling out the opposition for 205 to deflation. Smith, fast left-arm, diminutive and with a hustling run reminiscent of Barry Stead, a fellow Yorkshire exile of yesteryear, dismissed David Byas and Darren Lehmann in the first three balls after tea, condemning later batsmen, notably Richard Blakey, to an evening of hard labour.

Byas was athletically caught at cover point by Tim Hancock, having ventured a stroke to square leg and Lehmann edged a catch to first slip two balls later.

Such misadventures were vividly familiar to Gloucestershire, though the diligent Nick Trainor weathered 129 balls in making 40 before being sixth out at 152. Trainor succumbed to a turning ball from Richard Stimpson, who also crept through Hancock's bat and pad defence.

Every collapse invariably involves a run out and Jack Russell, the batsman most likely to thrive in these difficult circumstances, was the victim, beaten by Vaughan's throw to the non-striker's end.

Gloucestershire, having launched at 125 for 3 with Trainor on 30, lost their last seven wickets for 80 in 100 minutes. Lynch having already cut a ball from Gavin Hamilton into gully's hands, having been dropped on 44 by Byas at second slip.

Lynch dominated a third wicket partnership of 78 with Trainor. Hamilton, deputising for Darren Gough, on Test duty, had the tonic of dismissing Rob Cunliffe with his first ball.

Gloucestershire's tail came quietly, as if gently tapped on the shoulder by the venomous Yorkshire attack. Martyn Ball was the exception, following the Lynch philosophy with 35 from 33 balls. It was just another ingredient in an enthralling day.



Penney, Warwickshire's top scorer with 84 in a first-innings total of 314, flicks Phillips away on the leg side at Tunbridge Wells yesterday

## Thompson finds cure for Kent's ailment

By IVO TENNANT

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS** (first day of four; Warwickshire won toss): Kent, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 284 runs behind Warwickshire**AN AZURE** day at the Nevill, birdsong in the air, the rhododendrons banked in full bloom. Apart from a new roof on the Bluehems stand, the ground has hardly changed since Frank Woolley's day.

After that, Whitaker, whom captaincy is making into the player he should have been ten years ago, was disappointed by a succession of partners. Johnson stayed an hour and then threw away his wicket, cutting tidy into the hands of point; Habib played elegantly, as he always will, before tamely driving a return catch to Weekes; and Nixon was bowled by a ball pushed through by Tufnell. Even Parsons batted an hour, but made only five.

That said, Middlesex remained purposeful under their new leader, Ramprakash, whose early style is definitely *sotto voce*. He still fields away from the wicket, Gatting still does all the barking, and he still lets Gatting put his car in the captain's parking space behind the pavilion.

The corresponding championship match here last year finished in two days, but these conditions, which Warwickshire's batsmen did not utilise as they might have done, were co-existent with the setting.

On a flat pitch, Warwickshire, who won the toss, were bowled out for 314. This after Moles and Knight had made

73 in the first 14 overs and Penney and Oster added 87 with some ease for the fourth wicket against a Kent attack that lost McCague early on. After he had bowled just five overs, he retired for the day with a sore hip. There was something poignant about this happening just as a Test series was about to start.

Kent were also without Headley, who is injured, Ealham, with England, and, Patel, out for the season.

Much of their bowling was entrusted to Thompson, who is as given in the sure knowledge that, as a qualified doctor, he has a long-term career to fall back on. He finished with five wickets, swinging the ball initially and giving away fewer runs once

he had broken the opening partnership.

Only last week, Warwickshire were knocked out of the Benson and Hedges Cup by Kent at Canterbury. Then, Donald strained his back, an injury from which he has still to recover. Giles, too, was missing yesterday. In these kind of conditions, a decent total was needed to give a wicket-weak attack some succour.

A total, say, of 400, or even more. Mike Dennies, who, among many other roles, oversees the state of pitches around the country, was casting an eye over the ground on which he received his county cap all those years ago. Today, he will be closely monitoring what is happening at Edgbaston.

It has been mooted that

Knight, as well as needing to find greater form, has a technical weakness outside off stump. He was out pushing forward in that region, taken at first slip off Thompson, but not before he had driven and played off his legs with some aplomb. Moles, in form after all his runs at Southampton, pulled and drove with glee.

There were eight fours in his 42 and, although he appeared constrained by the dismissals of Knight and Hemp, his misjudgment of Flemming's first straight ball was quite unexpected.

Osler and Penney then put together the kind of partnership which suggested that a sizeable total would be forthcoming. It was ended by a sharp catch at gully by Ward off Thompson, who looks to

have added a yard of pace this season.

He collected, also, the wickets of Edmond and Small, tailenders who were starting to make too many runs for Kent's liking. Strang had a lengthy, rather flat bowl for a leg spinner, and perhaps as a consequence had only the wicket of Brown to show for it. In Patel's absence, Kent are inevitably short of spin, which meant that Llong was given eight overs in the afternoon.

He dismissed Penney, although the shot was a poor one. Two runs short of his best score of the season, he picked out Phillips at mid-on. Smith then went to the first ball of the next over, leg-before to Phillips. Of the three catches Wells took at first slip, one to remove Edmond, was high class.

## IN BRIEF

### Black's hopes of world success rise

**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire**HEADLEYING** (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire, with all four first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Gloucestershire**YORKSHIRE** v Gloucestershire







## RACING 45

Can Hanbury fashion victory with first Derby runner?

# SPORT

THURSDAY JUNE 5 1997

## TENNIS 47

Rafter's classic approach brings victory in Paris



England captain determined to prevent Australia gaining early advantage at Edgbaston

## Atherton demands prompt service

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

EVEN on his darkest days, and there have been a few of those, Michael Atherton's desire to remain as England captain has been sustained by one profound wish: He yearns to beat Australia. Now, on the ground where it all began and the day he equals Peter May's record for longevity in this most demanding job, he has a distant but distinct sight of fulfillment.

To speak of England regaining the Ashes is, of course, bold and speculative. How could it be otherwise when the last four grief-stricken Test series against Australia have produced an aggregate score of two England wins against 14 for the opposition?

There have been times when the teams have seemed so far apart that they might come from different planets, when the contrast in their approach, management and support structure — never mind ability — has been so stark as to make a patriotic Englishman weep. Yet suddenly there is a sense of change sharp enough to make the notion of England winning less of a hopeless fancy than usual.

Mark Taylor, Australia's embattled captain, has had his own preoccupations of late, but it has not prevented him from noticing the trend. "England have got a good spirit going," he said yesterday. "They seem to be more buoyant and I reckon they are going to give us a tough fight."

The bell for the first round

sounds this morning at Edgbaston and proceedings will be watched by the first of three successive full houses, an attendance statistic never previously achieved on this ground.

Australia remain the bookmakers' favourites to win the match and the Cornhill series, but the odds against England retaking the Ashes have shrunk from 8-1 to 11-4 on a rare wave of public belief.

## DETAILS

ENGLAND (from M A Atherton (captain), M A Butcher, A J Stewart, G P Thorpe, N Lever, G S Blewett, M E Ward, S R Holiak, R D B Cott, D Gough, A R Coddick, D E Malcolm)

AUSTRALIA: M A Taylor (captain), M T Elliott, G S Blewett, M E Ward, S R Holiak, R D B Cott, D Gough, A R Coddick, D E Malcolm

Umpires: P Willey and S Budner (West Indies), T Raskin and J Lark (Australia), R S Madugalle (Sri Lanka)

TELEVISION: Live: BBC1 10.50am-1.40pm, BBC2 12.35pm-1.40pm, BBC1 1.40-2.35pm, BBC2 1.45-2.55pm, Highlights: Sky Sports 4 9.30pm, BBC2 10.15pm-11.15pm

RADIO: Live: Radio 4 10.55am-1.00pm, 1.40-6.00pm

By next Monday, the prospect will either have crystallised enticingly or condensed to the unpalatable dregs of yesterday's dreams. The first Test of a series is always influential but, in this case, there are many good reasons for believing it will be paramount.

If England should lose over the next five days in Birmingham, surrendering whatever psychological gains

they have made in the past fortnight, it will be hard to see them coming back. They must not dare not lose and Atherton, beginning his 41st match in charge on the ground where he assumed the captaincy, from Graham Gooch, four years ago, knows it.

He needs no reminding that his team has acquired the feckless habit of beginning Test series as if infected with a death wish. All too often, damage done on the initial days of a series has undermined hope and confidence, resulting in what is at best a mission of redemption and at worst a lost cause.

"We are stressing the need to start well," Atherton said yesterday. "From the first session, really from the first ball, we're looking to grab the initiative." To grab it, moreover, from a team that has developed a very different habit — one of swamping opponents at the outset of a series so that their propensity for appearing fallible in later games comes across as nothing more than an act of mercy.

They have done this against Pakistan, West Indies and South Africa in the past 18 months, building a healthy reputation as a team that wins a lot, loses a little and never draws a game. Although nothing official grants them the title of world leaders, it is difficult to dispute their entitlement.

All this needs reiterating, not to damp down the expectation, but to emphasise the task confronting England. The soap opera of Taylor's lack of form may well have had an insidious effect on team morale, but it has also dominated to such a degree that it has been easy to forget there are ten other Australians who can play a bit. In the Waugh brothers, they have two of the best half-dozen batsmen in the world. In Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath, they have a leg spinner and a seamer as good as any.

Australia settled on their final XI 24 hours ahead of the game, confirming that Greg Blewett will bat at No 3 and that Michael Kasprowicz will play as a third seam bowler, a

change in their favoured balance that acknowledges the conditions they expect to face.

England still have a delicate decision, or two, to make today. First, Atherton — it will largely be down to him — must make a choice between Adam Hollioake and Mark Ealham for the final place. Ealham's superior bowling makes him the pragmatic preference.

Then, if he should win the toss, Atherton must balance the advantages of bowling first, on a green-tinted pitch and in the forecast humidity, against the perils of batting last on a surface notorious for its uneven bounce.

Clumps of tufty grass decorated the pitch yesterday, along with a mosaic of thin cracks. The England management sounded content and were certainly in no hurry for Steve Rouse, the groundsman, to get his mower out. Warwickshire, naturally, crave a five-day game but England simply want conditions that might discomfit the Australians; compromise may be reached via the medium of a disagreeable weather forecast.

"I don't think anyone really knows what this pitch will do," Atherton said. "It is not a massively important toss but I know what I want to do if I win it." Presumably, barring cloud cover, he would bat first, though his ambivalence over the toss suggests he would be equally happy to leave the dilemma to Taylor.

Atherton was bullish yesterday. "I want this series pretty badly," he said, "and I am confident we can win. But if you don't think that when you start a series, there is no point in turning up." This morning, however, Atherton will be one of many thousand who turn up with a rare degree of conviction that this could be the year to end a decade of subservience.

□ Cornhill Insurance, which has sponsored England Test series since 1978, yesterday announced a further three-year investment worth £9 million.

John Woodcock, page 48  
Taylor defiant, page 48  
Lancashire tumble, page 49



Devon Malcolm, recalled to Test duty by the new England management, warms up in the nets at Edgbaston yesterday

## Lions furious at the violence that may deprive them of Weir

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN WITBANK, SOUTH AFRICA

THE possible loss of Doddie Weir, the Scotland lock, removed the gilt from the best performance of the British Isles rugby union tour of South Africa yesterday. They defeated Mpumalanga, formerly South-Eastern Transvaal and playing for the first time under their new Zulu name, by 64-14 but a boot took Weir to hospital with damaged knee ligaments and only today will the tour management know whether he can continue.

The Lions would have cited Marius Bosman, the Mpumalanga lock, for foul play had not International Rugby Football Board regulations prevented them from doing so on the grounds that the referee, Carl Spannenberg, dealt with the incident during the game.

He spoke to Bosman and reversed a penalty in favour of the Lions, but that was not the only incident in which Bosman was involved.

He and Elandre van der Berg, his fellow lock, had no qualms in stamping on Rob Wainwright's face at a ruck halfway through the first half, after the Scotland flanker had given the Lions the best of starts by scoring three tries within eight minutes. But Bosman could also be seen punching at mauls and if the Lions could not cite him after the Weir incident, they might have done so for others.

Gert Grobler, the Mpumalanga manager, claimed that any incidents were "unintentional" but agreed that he would take disciplinary action if video study appeared to

merit it. The Lions management, however, were fuming and will have lost no time in acquainting Rian Oberholzer, chief executive of the South African Rugby Football Union (Sarfu), who attended the match, with their views.

The tour agreement does not provide for a match commissioner, in the way that operates during the Super 12 tournament and the tri-nations series in the southern hemisphere, and perhaps it is time that it should. "Doddie was injured by a foot coming across his knee on the side of a ruck-maul," Ian McGeechan, the Lions coach, said. "Sarfu know we are upset about the incident and we will leave it at that for now."

Fran Cotton, the manager, added: "We all share a joint

responsibility. If we feel an act of foul play has taken place which deserves further punishment, we will share responsibility in making sure the player is disciplined." But the Lions were delighted at the level of discipline shown by their players, none of whom offered retaliation despite the sometimes-blatant attempts to unsettle them.

"Something as cold-blooded as that wasn't in context with the game as a whole," McGeechan said. "It would disappoint us greatly if Doddie doesn't have a Lions tour because of something like that. If someone has rugby at heart, they will be responsible for their players and if Mpumalanga take action, we would be pleased." That, though, will be cold comfort for Weir should bad medial ligament damage necessitate his replacement, possibly by the younger of the Quinnell brothers, Craig.

However, McGeechan was clearly delighted that the hard work of his players in training, both the forwards at the set scrums and the backs in creating space, earned a tenacious haul. "We are beginning to play a good, fluid game in which everyone is involved," he said. "It's a hard game to play and if you are not self-disciplined, you can't play it."

Tobie Coetzee, the Mpumalanga captain, who had been less than impressed with the Lions' opening matches, added soberly: "Looking at our Springbok side, there are some warning lights flickering for them."

Contraceptives should be used on every conceivable occasion.

Erika Miltzen



Ieuan Evans, the powerful Lions wing, bursts through a ragged defence at Witbank

**British Midland**  
The Airline for Europe

PRIZES: THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling Economy Class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.

THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of destinations throughout the UK as well as Europe and has now added daily flights from Heathrow to Copenhagen, Oslo and Gothenburg. With over 1,500 flights a week to 18 European destinations British Midland is the airline for Europe.

All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

**SOLUTION TO NO 1111**  
ACROSS: 1 Impose, 4 Adored, 8 Piloted, 10 Licit, 11 Lira (Lire), 12 Platonic, 14 Malicious, 18 Sirocco, 20 Aria, 22 Digit, 23 Sirocco  
DOWN: 1 Sodden, 25 Brunei  
DOWN: 1 Impale, 2 Pilgrim, 3 Site, 5 Dilution, 6 Ricin, 7 Detox, 9 Delicious, 13 Black-tie, 15 Sirocco, 16 Asides, 17 Gandhi, 19 Rigid, 21 Weir

Tetras Superball

Inspiration in writing

Available from Office World, Office Club, Partners and other stationery retailers.

Match report, page 50  
RFU power struggle, page 50